

# Columbia Judge Denies Plea to Put Off Trial to Monday

Special to the Daily Worker

COLUMBIA, Tenn., May 28.—Defense attorneys lost the first two rounds of their fight today to quash the indictments against 24 Negroes facing framed up charges in connection with the lynch riot here Feb. 25 and 26.

Judge Joe M. Ingram denied an's son, a returned war veteran. Thereupon a lynch mob was formed which attacked the Negro community and wounded scores. Two Negroes were slain in jail. Homes and stores owned by Negroes were wrecked. State militia patrolled the district for several days after. *Wed. 5-29-46* One hundred Negroes were arrested within a few days of the bloody attacks, but most were released. Indictments were trumped up against the 24 now facing trial, despite the fact that all the bloodshed took place in the Negro community and was perpetrated by the white mob.

Defense attorneys have lined up 72 witnesses in their move to nullify the indictment on the grounds that Negroes for years have been denied services on juries in Maury County, scene of the lynch riot. This practice is unconstitutional, defense charges. *Wed. 5-29-46*

Defense attorneys, retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are Z. Alexander Looby, Negro lawyer from Nashville, and Maurice Weaver, white lawyer from Chattanooga.

The defense was also prepared to ask for a change of venue on the grounds that it would be impossible to secure a fair trial in the hate-laden atmosphere of this city. A few feet from the courtroom in the Maury County Courthouse is a balcony from which a Negro was lynched by a mob 19 years ago.

A crowd of about 200—half of them Negroes—attended today's session.

Nineteen of the Negroes facing trial are charged with attempted murder, four with attempted murder and with being accessories before the fact and one with being an accessory after the fact.

The trials grew out of an attack on the Negro community by an armed mob of white men. The attack followed a row in which a white man hit a Negro woman and was in turn hit by the Negro woman.

defense lawyers are Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, and Z. Alexander Looby and Maurice Weaver, white, both of Nashville.

## NAACP Behind Case

Counsel was furnished by the NAACP which has indicated that it will fight the Columbia case through the highest courts in an effort to free the defendants.

Meanwhile, in Nashville, a federal grand jury continued an investigation of the case to determine if any federal law or constitutional guarantees had been violated in the disturbances, which culminated in a pitched attack by law enforcement officers on the homes and businesses of colored people here. *6-7-46*

At the trial's very opening, defense counsel moved to have the indictments quashed on the grounds that qualified colored persons were excluded from the grand jury which returned the indictments and that colored persons have been systematically excluded from both grand and petty jury service in Maury County, of which Columbia is the county seat, for years. *The Call*

## May Ask Venue Change

The defense announced it would parade 72 colored witnesses and numerous city and county officials into court to prove systematic exclusions of qualified colored persons from jury service because of their race or color.

If the plea to quash the indictments is denied by Judge Joe Ingram, defense counsel will likely file a motion for change of venue on the ground that it is impossible to get a fair trial of the men in Columbia and will also file motions to have the men tried individually instead of in mass. *City News*

District Attorney General Paul F. Bumpus, head of the prosecution staff, said he would seek new indictments if those now standing are quashed.

Curious townspeople filed into the old courthouse early to get good seats for the trial that had stirred up nationwide interest, including the advisory committee to the National Committee for Justice in Tennessee, of which Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Channing Tobias are co-chairmen ex-officio. *Freedom 6-7-46*

This committee was organized to advise and coordinate the activities of groups all over the country who were aroused by the undemocratic implications of the Columbia riot.

## A Lynching Scene

A few feet away from the courtroom was the balcony where a mob lynched a colored man 19 years ago. According to Mr. Looby, Columbia is only 75 miles from the original home of the Ku Klux Klan in Pulaski County and the mob spirit always has been strong

here. Columbia's colored population was said to have witnessed two other lynchings and in one the body of the victim had been exhibited hanging from the courthouse window in the main square.

A block from the courthouse is Mink Slide, the colored business section, where law enforcement officers wrought havoc in the February disturbance.

In Mink Slide, on the afternoon of February 25, a colored woman, Mrs. Gladys Stephenson, and her son, James, had an altercation with William Fleming, a white radio repairman. Fleming was allegedly pushed through a plate glass window after he slapped Mrs. Stephenson.

Later in the day a white crowd gathered but was dispersed. There was talk of another lynching overheard by some of Columbia's colored populace. That night when four policemen went into the Mink Slide area, they were fired upon, and the incident flared into open warfare upon the inhabitants of the area.

## Troopers 'Keep Order'

The State Highway Patrol rushed into the area, and 500 Tennessee State Guardsmen were ordered to Columbia to "preserve order." The next morning troopers marched into the area and methodically cleaned it out. Three patrolmen, two other white men, and three colored men were wounded during the disturbance.

Two days later two colored men were killed by troopers at the county jail during an alleged attempt to escape.

Over 100 colored persons were arrested, but all except 31 have been released. Four white persons also were indicted, but only two have been arrested, and a motion to have their indictments quashed is pending.

Nineteen of the men brought into court last Tuesday were charged with attempted murder, four with attempted murder and being accessories before the fact, and one with being an accessory after the fact.

# NAACP Set to Call 10,000 in Tenn. Jury Challenge

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—The NAACP, whose ablest lawyers are defending 31 men involved in the bloody riots here last February, announced Sunday that it will summons all of Maury County's 10,000 colored residents to show their qualifications for jury service. *6-8-46*

Walter White, executive secretary, said in New York City that this unprecedented action has become necessary because of the adamant and challenging attitude of State's Attorney Paul F. Bumpus, who is fighting relentlessly against the NAACP's efforts to annul the indictments.

Prosecutor Adamant Mr. White pointed out in a press release that the State's Attorney refuses to admit that there are colored persons in Maury County qualified to serve on petit or grand juries. *Mauryland*

He contends, therefore, that exclusion from jury service for more than 50 years is not racial prejudice.

Fears Exposure Mr. White estimated that it will

take about two months to prove qualifications of colored persons for jury service. He added that Mr. Bumpus apparently fears another worldwide expose of Tennessee practices and backwardness similar to that in the famous Scopes evolution trial. *6-8-46*

The association's spokesman concluded that while it will be an expensive and wearying experience to summon the 10,000 citizens, especially during the hot summer months, the NAACP is determined to do so in support of its

Many Objections The State's Attorney, who heads the prosecution, offered continuous objections as defense attorneys sought to question witnesses about race relations in Maury County.

Judge Joe M. Ingram ordered the questions confined to whether colored persons have served on juries here, but Mr. Bumpus indicated he would seek new indictments if the present ones were quashed. *Mauryland*

In Nashville, a Federal grand jury

Change of Venue The defense lawyers said a change of venue and separate trials for the defendants would be

Witnesses Called The State's Attorney objected, on grounds that the Judge's testimony that the defendants would be

Admits Precedent Mr. Bumpus's ire was aroused when Maurice Weaver, white, of Chattanooga, one of four defense lawyers, drew from Judge Whitthorne's testimony the admission was that, between 1898 and 1901, grand jurors were selected by the county court comprised of elected justices of the peace. *Mauryland*

And that, during that period two colored men had been members of the County Court, and one had been selected for jury service.

Two Tell of Calls All except one testified that they had never heard of colored persons being called for jury duty in Maury County. The exception was Sam Caruthers, a school teacher, who said he had been summoned once, but was excused at his own request.

Another, Loraine Morton, said her nephew, James Morton, an undertaker, had been summoned in a panel once several years ago, but was not placed on the jury.

Change of Venue The defense lawyers said a change of venue and separate trials for the defendants would be

Witnesses Called The State's Attorney objected, on grounds that the Judge's testimony that the defendants would be



jury investigation of the riots was adjourned until Monday.

Clark Foreman and James A. Dombrowski of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and Carl Van Doren, the author, have been summoned to appear before the Federal grand jury.

In Washington, Mr. Foreman's office said he would not appear because he has no first hand information about the riots.

Mr. Van Doren said in New York that his health would not permit him to appear and that he had no first-hand knowledge of the case.

#### Quick Trial Sought

The State's Attorney, who also plans to call a number of witnesses, expressed hope that the actual trial will begin immediately after Judge Ingram rules on the abatement pleas, if they are denied.

If the pleas are upheld the indictments will be annulled.

Defense motions for separate trials for postponement pending the arrival of Thurgood Marshall were denied on May 28 when the case opened. Mr. Marshall arrived on May 29.

Nineteen of the defendants were charged with attempted murder, four with attempted murder with being accessories before the fact, and one with being an accessory before the fact.

## Officials Heard in 'Riot' Probe

Question Harrington on 'Terror' Pamphlet  
CALL CHICAGOAN  
Columbia Trial  
Scene Called Tense

NASHVILLE— Before adjourning last week, a Federal grand jury investigating possible violations of colored people's civil rights in the Columbia riot, excused two national organization officials and released a third on condition he return when summoned.

Samuel Neuberger, of the New York Civil Liberties Union and James Dombrowski of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, were excused following their testimony, while Oliver Harrington, NAACP Public Relations Counsel, is subject to recall.

#### Jury Action Threatens

According to a reliable source, some action was being contemplated against Harrington for a pamphlet he had written called "Terror in Tennessee," which had presented the facts in the riot and which was widely circulated by the NAACP.

A cartoonist, writer and former

Pittsburgh Courier war correspondent, Harrington was subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

Issue Warrants for Chicagoan  
At the same time, according to Judge Elmer D. Davis, a bench warrant was issued to bring Clarence C. Carraway, Chicago packinghouse worker, before the Middle Tennessee Federal Court to show why he did not appear when summoned.

Request for the warrant was made by U. S. Attorneys assisting the grand jury in its probe, who described Carraway's failure to come to Tennessee as "wilful, deliberate and without lawful excuse."

U. S. marshals in Chicago were instructed to take Carraway into custody and bring him before the District Court.

Accused of Criticizing Officials  
A former Columbia resident, he is accused of having written letters to Tennessee officials and to the Soviet Embassy in Washington expressing his views on the so-called riots and expressing indignation over police treatment of his former neighbors.

Meanwhile, in Columbia, a tense atmosphere hung over the crowded courtroom as State Attorney-General Paul F. Bumpus complained against a "courtroom filibuster being staged by NAACP attorneys Marshall, Looby, Weaver and Ransom.

To Disprove Jury Claim  
Bumpus will attempt to disprove the defense contention that colored persons are excluded from juries in Maury County and that the jury which indicted the 31 defendants was discriminatory.

NAACP lawyers are attempting to prove through the process of elimination that colored people have not been called for jury duty here for more than 50 years.

To Call 10,000 Witness  
To do this they are prepared to call 10,000 colored persons to the witness stand.

To date, 148 witnesses, between 21 and 75 years of age, have been called by NAACP men. All have qualifications for jury service, but none had ever heard of a colored person being called for jury duty.

One newspaper correspondent, describing the tenseness in the courtroom as more dramatic than any other he has ever witnessed, said:

Vast Implications  
"I don't believe the rest of the nation realizes the implications of what is happening in this place."

It was reported that "red-necked" spectators gaped in open-mouth wonder at the unprecedented spectacle of colored lawyers vigorously applying the legal club to their local attorneys during hot-pitched verbal exchanges.

Refuses to Admit Bias  
At the close of last week's court sessions, Bumpus ignored NA-

ACP attorney's suggestion that the State admit that qualified colored persons have been regularly barred from jury service.

He said he would show that colored persons names were in the jury box from which the February grand jury was selected.

During the first week of questioning, a former biology professor testified he had been summoned for jury duty over a year ago, but he felt some mistake had been made and asked to be excused.

## People & Issues

New York, N.Y.  
By Benjamin Davis, Jr.

Communist Councilman, Borough of Manhattan

THE FATE of the whole Negro people—and particularly of the big majority who live in the South—is being determined by the frame-up trial of the 20 Negro defendants in Columbia, Tenn.

The crime of these defendants was that they sought to defend their families and their homes against an attempt of the Ku Klux Klan to wipe out a whole Negro community like Hitler wiped out Lidice.

They availed themselves of their constitutional right to protect themselves in their homes against a lawless gang of cowardly and hooded assassins who wish to establish fascism in America.

Instead of being put on trial, each and every one of the defendants should be given a medal and cited by the government for upholding American democracy against the native Hitlerites who would destroy it.

But this trial is not the only persecution to which they have been subjected. Two of the Negroes who were arrested were deliberately lynched in the jail by the so-called "law-enforcement" officials.

"Shot while trying to escape" is the obvious lie given by the officials for their murder—an excuse taken right out of the mouth of Goebbels.

Not a single Klansman is on trial, not a single white person although the only crimes committed were by the white Kluxers.

The whole case is a part of the renewed lynch campaign against the Negro people in the deep South, and first of all, against the Negro veterans. More than half of the 20 defendants are veterans. Mass attack against the Negroes in Columbia began because a Negro vet, James Stephenson, defended his mother from a physical attack upon her by a Klan-minded white.

For their valiant actions, these 20 defendants can be convicted and sent up for long jail terms—which means their lives—unless labor and democratic people of this country intervene and stop it—as was done with the Scottsboro boys.

Nor can there be the slightest feeling of security in the North, certainly not in New York. For the fascist-minded cop Joseph Romeika, who lynched two innocent Negro veterans, Charles and Alfonzo Ferguson, in Freeport, L. I., is still walking the beat—thanks to Gov. Dewey who refuses to lift his



And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

little finger for justice in this case.

ATTORNEYS for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is handling the Columbia case, are putting up a first-rate defense, raising the question of the right of Negroes to sit on the jury and other basic constitutional issues. Full support should be given to the NAACP in this battle.

It is quite clear, however, that ways must be found for the participation of labor and the people in the defense. Attorneys alone, even the best, are not sufficient without a broad united movement behind them. For the enemy—the poll taxers and white supremacists—are using much more than their prosecuting attorneys to railroad these defendants. They are using the whole lynch system, its race inciting propaganda, its lies and terror against both Negroes and their allies among the whites. We, the defense, must in turn meet the enemy on every front. That cannot be done by one organization, but requires the combined united strength of all the organizations of labor and the people. Otherwise, we underestimate the danger of the enemy.

NOW IS the time for demonstrations, mass meetings, parades, and banners all over America by labor and peoples organizations.

Wherever there is a picket line, there should be placards reminding America and the big monopolies and labor-haters that the fight for jobs, decent wages and working conditions are part of the fight for democracy and justice for the Negro people—for the Negro vets. Today its black and white, unite and fight—or be trampled by the four horsemen of reaction.

Wall Street's campaign to smash labor and the drive against the Negro people are both intended to gag the most vocal forces for peace in the country.

Meantime, what is being decided in Columbia is whether the Ku Klux Klan is to become an official part of a State government with power to murder and terrorize citizens of the United States under the protection of State authority? We dare not permit an affirmative answer to this question.

jury but a whole vicious set of social customs which have enforced second class citizenship on Negroes for many years and brought about the bloody events here last February.

After State's Attorney Paul F. Bumpus concludes his arguments, presumably some time this week Circuit Court Judge Joe M. Ingram will rule whether to throw out the indictment or put the case before a jury. It is already a foregone conclusion in Columbia that the defense plea of abatement will be turned down.

Meanwhile Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver, Thurgood Marshall and Dr. L. A. Ransom, defense

counsel, are planning to argue for a change of venue. They will argue the defendants, who were arrested and indicted after they fought off a lynching, cannot possibly receive a fair trial here. Much evidence is loose. Many are being fined on trumped up charges.

The Ku Klux Klan is becoming boldly active in Columbia. Threats are being openly made against defense attorneys, defendants and friends of the defendants.

Local police and officials have stepped up their old campaign of intimidation and are arresting local

was as great as it is now.

The town takes on a quiet aspect "something to pop."

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

After State's Attorney Paul F. Bumpus concludes his arguments, presumably some time this week Circuit Court Judge Joe M. Ingram will rule whether to throw out the indictment or put the case before a jury. It is already a foregone conclusion in Columbia that the defense plea of abatement will be turned down.

Meanwhile Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver, Thurgood Marshall and Dr. L. A. Ransom, defense

counsel, are planning to argue for a change of venue. They will argue the defendants, who were arrested and indicted after they fought off a lynching, cannot possibly receive a fair trial here. Much evidence is loose. Many are being fined on trumped up charges.

The Ku Klux Klan is becoming boldly active in Columbia. Threats are being openly made against defense attorneys, defendants and friends of the defendants.

Local police and officials have stepped up their old campaign of intimidation and are arresting local

was as great as it is now.

The town takes on a quiet aspect "something to pop."

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

After State's Attorney Paul F. Bumpus concludes his arguments, presumably some time this week Circuit Court Judge Joe M. Ingram will rule whether to throw out the indictment or put the case before a jury. It is already a foregone conclusion in Columbia that the defense plea of abatement will be turned down.

Meanwhile Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver, Thurgood Marshall and Dr. L. A. Ransom, defense

counsel, are planning to argue for a change of venue. They will argue the defendants, who were arrested and indicted after they fought off a lynching, cannot possibly receive a fair trial here. Much evidence is loose. Many are being fined on trumped up charges.

The Ku Klux Klan is becoming boldly active in Columbia. Threats are being openly made against defense attorneys, defendants and friends of the defendants.

Local police and officials have stepped up their old campaign of intimidation and are arresting local

was as great as it is now.

The town takes on a quiet aspect "something to pop."

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

After State's Attorney Paul F. Bumpus concludes his arguments, presumably some time this week Circuit Court Judge Joe M. Ingram will rule whether to throw out the indictment or put the case before a jury. It is already a foregone conclusion in Columbia that the defense plea of abatement will be turned down.

Meanwhile Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver, Thurgood Marshall and Dr. L. A. Ransom, defense

counsel, are planning to argue for a change of venue. They will argue the defendants, who were arrested and indicted after they fought off a lynching, cannot possibly receive a fair trial here. Much evidence is loose. Many are being fined on trumped up charges.

The Ku Klux Klan is becoming boldly active in Columbia. Threats are being openly made against defense attorneys, defendants and friends of the defendants.

Local police and officials have stepped up their old campaign of intimidation and are arresting local

was as great as it is now.

The town takes on a quiet aspect "something to pop."

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.

And law enforcement bodies are doing nothing about it. And nothing could be expected from the State Highway Patrol. Uniformed men of this body shot up and wrecked the Columbia Negro business community last February marked a huge KKK in an undertaking parlor and later shot two innocent Negroes to death in jail.







# 23 Negroes Acquitted

*The Courier-Journal*  
In Tennessee Riots  
Louisville, Ky.

By the Associated Press.

Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Oct. 4.—An all-white jury composed mostly of farmers returned a verdict of innocent in the cases of 23 Negroes charged in connection with near-by Columbia's racial disorders. But it found two others guilty of assault with intent to commit murder and fixed their sentences at "not more than 21 years" in the penitentiary. *Sat. 10-5-46*

The jury reached its verdict after one hour and 53 minutes of deliberation. Herbert Patterson, merchant and foreman of the jury—which required six weeks to select—handed the verdict to Circuit Judge Joe M. Ingram, who read it in open court.

## New Trial for Pair Sought.

Robert Gentry and John McKivens were the defendants found guilty of an attack on Patrolman Will Wilsford, Columbia, one of four officers who entered the Mink Slide Negro business block the night of February 25 after a day of mounting racial tension. Wilsford was seriously injured by shotgun blasts.

Two other Columbia Negroes, 76-year-old businessman and political leader Julius Blair and James Morton, an undertaker, were found innocent of being accessory to the attack and 21 others were absolved of the actual assault.

Ingram thanked the jury and said, "You have rendered a great service."

L. A. Ransom, Washington, D. C., lawyer for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and for the defendants, announced that he would ask a new trial for the pair, convicted on the 14th day of the trial.

## From other columns

*Tribune*  
So Shineth  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
By Jennings Perry,  
columnist for the  
newspaper PM, New York

I went down, the other day, and walked through Mink Slide in Columbia, Tenn. The street was quiet under the warm weight of the noon-high October sun. Two boys were carrying a dog on the sidewalk. I asked if they had many tourists nowadays. They grinned, said:

"A few."

Back in the square at the top of the hill above the muddy Duck

river, where Maury county's Courthouse sits with gaping windows, people were lounging on the low concrete wall that holds up the courthouse lawn. Some were white, some Negro. Nobody was glaring at anybody.

It was in this square, on the night of Feb. 24, the mob formed. "It wasn't much of a mob," one of three men sitting on the courthouse steps told me. Mostly boys—country boys, at that. Drinking. I don't believe they ever would've gone down there."

He wiggled a thumb toward the slide.

"Even if the patrol hadn't come." He was an insurance man, he said. Another sitting there was a farmer. The other was a deputy sheriff. None of them was bitter about the recent verdict of the trial jury in neighboring Lawrence county that freed 23 of the Columbia Negroes charged with attempted murder. All agreed the worst thing about the whole "mess" was the "outside interference," all that publicity put on us here.

In this, of course, they were wrong.

I like to believe that the 12 white men of the Lawrence county jury would have brought in as fair a verdict if the case had never been heard of outside of Tennessee. Lawrence county has a strong salting of German Catholic stock, settlers who came in after reconstruction days. Good farmers and independent men. Lawrence did not want the trial: it sent word to Maury to "wash its own dirty linen." I like to think the Columbia Negroes would have found

justice evenhanded in Lawrence under those circumstances alone. But this is true: that if it had not been for "outside interference" (the legal assistance furnished the defendants by the NAACP and others, the notice taken of the case by the press all over the country), the case would not have gone before the Lawrence county jury at all. It would have remained in Maury, and in that planta-

## Civilian (Tennessee--Columbia--Trial--RESULTS)

tion-flavored climate justice we may be sure, would have worn quite a different face.

The Tennessee press as a whole played down the trial. Editorially it washed its hands like Pilate. Its news columns did give more than ample spread to the many loose charges of "Communist influence" and more than ample reflection to the resentment of the state's attorney, the court, and even of some official witnesses at the show of interest in the case by outsiders. The Nashville Banner, whose news columns usually share the rabid prejudices of its editorial direction, was particularly virulent upon these heads in its reporting.

Had the outside not looked in, had the spotlight of "all that publicity" not borne on the Columbia case, the Negro defendants undoubtedly would have been made to feel, as in so many uncelebrated instances they are, the rougher side of the white man's law. For while nothing puts up the hackles of a section—or an individual—like the suggestion that it or he may be incompetent to handle its "own" affairs, it still is clear that in a state of light the conscience will receive a reinforcement from the side of pride.

**Tennessee's 'Iron Curtain'**  
*The Times-Dispatch*  
Wed. 10-16-46

In your editorial of October 9 entitled, "It Couldn't Happen, But It Did," you approved the outmoded idea that Southern problems should not be touched by citizens from other parts of our republic.

A great American newspaper in its ninety-sixth year of publication cannot afford to compromise its editorial dignity with such premature nonsense.

The major problem at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., was to make certain that the 25 defendants at the bar were given a fair and impartial trial. Incidentally, that procedure involved a fundamental right expressly guaranteed to all Americans, and all America was justly concerned over the outcome. How can you justify your eternal insistence upon a "hands off" policy for interracial relations in Dixie since Dixie is still within the physical boundaries of the United States of America?

Of course, the whole nation owes a debt of thanks to the 12 good men and true who had the moral courage to forget most of the show staged for them by the prosecution during the entire trial, but let us not forget the contributions made by other forces.

The end of the episode might have been quite different had not the eyes of all America and the civilized world been focused upon the Lawrence County Courthouse. An iron curtain is just as dis-

tasteful in the South as it is in Russia, and equally as dangerous. Men of goodwill should have nothing to resent from enlightened public opinion, even if it comes from Harlem. *Richmond, Va.*  
T. J. SELLERS.

Charlottesville.

[Editor's note: Our correspondent misinterprets us, unintentionally no doubt. Our statement with respect to outside intervention in these interracial disputes was as follows: "The famous foreign correspondent (Vincent Sheean) reaches the altogether sound conclusion . . . that the problem behind the trial 'is primarily a Southern problem and the intrusion of any element from the other parts of our society is likely to be resented—and being so resented is likely to make things worse rather than better.'"]

## Jury Frees 23 Of 25 Negroes In Tennessee Racial Clash Trial

*The News*  
Birmingham, Ala.  
Sat. 10-5-46

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn., Oct. 5.—(AP)—Twenty-three of 25 Negroes charged with participating in a racial disturbance at nearby Columbia seven months ago were free today—acquitted by an all-white jury. The jury, which deliberated an hour and 53 minutes before bringing in a verdict late yesterday afternoon, found two other defendants guilty of assaulting four Columbia policemen during the day and night of racial unrest last February.

Robert Gentry, 24-year-old barber shop porter, and John McKivens, 26, alone were convicted of holding the shotguns which struck down Patrolman Will Wilsford and three other officers in Columbia's darkened Mink Slide Negro business block the night of Feb. 25, after a day of racial tension.

They were convicted of attempt to murder and the jury set their sentence at "not more than 21 years" in the penitentiary.

DEFENSE ATTY. L. A. RANSOM, of Washington, D. C., immediately announced he would ask a new trial for the pair, a preliminary to an appeal to the state's Supreme Court.

Another defense attorney, Maurice Weaver, of Chattanooga, only white member at the defendants' counsel table, termed the verdict "a victory for Americanism."

Dist. Atty. Gen. Paul F. Bumpus said: "The jury returned its verdict and I cannot complain about it."

The verdicts climaxed a 14-day trial preceded by months of legal sparring by lawyers for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and prosecuting attorneys.

THE NEGROES WERE INDICTED by a Grand Jury a month after

the turbulent day and night of racial conflict at Columbia which left 11 wounded and later resulted in the fatal shooting of two Negroes being held in jail. The two were shot during an escape attempt.

The trouble was touched off when a white radio repairman, William Fleming, and two Negroes, Gladys Stephenson and her 19-year-old son, James, became involved in an incident at Fleming's radio repair shop. Fleming was pushed through the plate glass window of his establishment. The Negroes were jailed, then released on bond.

Negroes began to withdraw during the day into the Mink Slide Negro quarter which was blacked out as the evening wore on and rumors began to spread of possible action by a white mob. Columbia has had two lynchings in 19 years. Columbia police moved into darkened Mink Slide during the night to reassure the Negroes that no trouble was expected and it was then that the shooting occurred.

## Tenn. Verdict Hopeful Omen for New South

*Under Markman*  
By Claudia Jones  
New York, N.Y. Fri.

The freeing of 23 of 25 Negro citizens of Columbia, Tenn., by an all-white jury in Lawrenceburg is an outstanding victory for the Negro people against the lynchers and white supremacists.

The jurors rose above southern racism to give an historic verdict in a Jimcrow court. *10-11-46* Involved was nothing less than the right of Negroes to defend themselves and their right to live from mob violence.

As such, the verdict has put under challenge the southern bourbon precept that "Negroes have no rights which white men are bound to respect."

## VICTORY NOT COMPLETE

It is of course not a complete victory. Two Negro defendants, Bob Gentry and John McKivens, were sentenced by the same jury to 21 years. Moreover, the acquitted 23 defendants, together with five others, still face trial on other indictments. Undoubtedly it will require even greater support to free them, if for no other reason than that the reaction-

But primary credit for the exposure of this frame-up should go to our own paper, the Daily Worker and The Worker.

Harry Raymond's dispatches exposed the mockery of democracy toward Negro citizens as seen in a southern courtroom. **HOPE OF SOUTH** The trial showed that the hope

undoubtedly this shows a growing desire on the part of many white southerners to do more than express passive disgust with and the thousands of people who have aided the Columbia case, this victory would never have resulted.



of a new South rests in the stalwart men and women like the Tennessee defendants, the Blairs, Mortons and Bellafonts, the young Negro veterans and workers who dared all for justice. It showed that there are white southerners

# Implications of Dred Scott Decision Reversed in Tenn.

*The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.*

By VINCENT TUBBS  
AFRO Staff Correspondent

Lawrenceburg, Tenn. — The Mink Slide decision handed down here Friday in the trial of 25 persons charged in the Columbia riot last February stands in legal significance alongside the famous Dred Scott decision of the 1800's.

In direct contrast, however, Southern jurymen this time recognized that colored Americans have rights which the white man must respect. *Sat. 10-12-46*

The only complicating thing about the whole show was that the defendants were black men instead of white men, but this is reconciling coats and ties, and talking ciled in the incontestable fact that some element of Tennessee was white men. Then, as time wore, Lawrenceburg lost its atmosphere of hostility toward the defendants and their counsel, but it did not forget its vexation with the judge and prosecutors.

**State Helped Open Doors**  
It must be considered, nevertheless, that shrewdness on the part of NAACP attorneys defending the Columbians and errors of judgment and tactics by Circuit Judge Joe Ingram and State prosecutors served to open the door to freedom for 23 of the 25 defendants.

Lawrenceburg indicated as soon as it was known that "the n — s" change of venue granted defense counsel that the good people of the county that spawned the Ku Klux Klan felt that Maury County should wash its own dirty linen.

**Didn't Want Trial**

Petitions against the change of venue were circulated and for weeks.

While attempts were made to select a jury, countless veniremen were adamant and unco-operative on the stand as they told the court and the world that Lawrence County didn't want the trial.

No less than five citizens were jailed for their open refusals to co-operate with the court.

Other verbal exchanges between attorneys and prospective jurors revealed that Lawrence County had made efforts to solve its race problem 10 or 20 years ago by engineering the expulsion of colored persons.

**No Problem, No Mixing**

One venireman recalled that signs reading "n — s, read and run" were in evidence in certain county towns as recently as five years ago. *The Afro-American*

last (1941) census, only 700 Lawrence Countians are colored.

Like most other localities which inaccurately boast of a lack of racial prejudice, Lawrence County had no race problem because it had so few colored people and those it does have, "stayed in their place." *Baltimore, Md.*

**First Came to See**

Never before in the history of this town had there been so many dark faces around the town square as during the month and half of this trial.

Spectators came to the courthouse during early days of the hearings for such purposes as "seeing those 'n — s' up there wearing coats and ties, and talking back to the judge just like they

Then, as time wore, Lawrenceburg lost its atmosphere of hostility toward the defendants and their counsel, but it did not forget its vexation with the judge and prosecutors.

**Admittedly Smelly**

The editor of the Lawrenceburg Democrat-Union reiterated the general local annoyance this week, saying:

"Maury County unfortunately accumulated a smelly situation. Maury County should have followed through with her deodorization."

"Lawrence County is not in the legal dry-cleaning business, nor does she care for experience in this particular field of renovation."

Judge Joe Ingram, Attorney General Paul H. Bumpus and his assistant, W. H. Harwell, committed a travesty against the alleged tranquility of racial relations here by permitting the change of venue from Columbia to Lawrenceburg County to "take up the cudgels of the lynching that failed and make the affair a legal lynching by convicting the defendants."

And this, in no small measure may be responsible for the South-ern white jury's reversal of the implications of the Dred Scott decision.

**State "Overdid the Thing"**

Furthermore, in their efforts to play to what they justifiably believe to be the sentiments of the Tennessee backwoodsmen who finally took seats in the jury box, Judge Joe and the State prosecutors overdid the thing.

Even bigoted whites with not a stomach for "the 'n — r' trial" were able to see that the State, through Ingram, Shelton, Bumpus and Harwell, did not propose to give the defendants even a semblance of a fair trial.

If the deadpan, blank and near-illiterate expressions of some of the jurors was affected by anything other than the heated tirades between witnesses and NAACP lawyers or the countless near-violent arguments between the lawyers, it was by some of Judge Ingram's onesided rulings.

**Some Used Common Sense**

It is doubtful that the jurors have any conception even today of all the ramifications of the legal lessons NAACP attorneys taught the State prosecutors.

However, their laymen's conception of fair play stood them in good stead when Judge Ingram overruled defense motions even before they were made.

Moreover, their good, earthy common sense served them well when the State, having failed to prove any one of the defendants did the actual shooting, sought to obtain convictions on the far-fetched theory of "collective responsibility."

**Convict Them All**

During one of the State's final arguments by Hugh Shelton, special prosecutor, the jury was asked to convict the men as aiders and abettors of the shooting even though they may have been in Nashville on the night.

Assistant Attorney General Harwell had previously asked them to try the men as they would any Lawrence Countian, without regard for their color.

Then, finally, Attorney General Bumpus pointed out that it was "a colored mob" bent on lynching white people that shot Officer Wilford and thus all were equally guilty.

To the jurors, this didn't make sense.

**Defense Arguments Strong**

They remembered that Defense Attorney Ransom had asked them, as far as possible, to place themselves in the position of a colored man in Mink Slide that night, bearing in mind two previous lynchings and the day's lynch rumors.

They remembered Defense Attorney Weaver's charge that Maury County was asking Lawrence County to "take up the cudgels of the lynching that failed and make the affair a legal lynching by convicting the defendants."

They remembered Attorney Looby's indictment of law enforcement officials as having been derelict in their duties since they knew of racial tension and did nothing about it.

This made sense.

**No Basic Change Ahead**

In returning their verdicts, the Lawrence County jury made his democratic history which will have its resounding effect around the world.

But it would be folly to assume that Lawrenceburg, Tenn., or the South has changed its basic attitude toward colored people or will

be prone to change because of the decision.

Lawrenceburg and the South still have their phobias.

Listen to the Democrat-Union editor, the same editor who expressed certainty that defendants "would get a fair trial if a Lawrence jury adjudicated the affair."

"Neither white nor colored in Lawrence County desires an 'Elanoric' metamorphosis in our two local races.

"We also believe we can get along without a Molotov millineum. A Stalin stagnation of tolerance will not be put up with, nor will we swallow the idiosyncrasies of Ickes's racial radicalisms."

All this verbosity, for the benefit of those unfamiliar with Dixie small-town journalism, means simply that the South wants to maintain the status quo.

It wants to keep the colored man in the traditional place, although 12 honest Lawrenceburg jurymen tell the world the colored American does have rights the white man must respect.

## The Lawrenceburg Acquittal

*The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 10-12-46*  
Most Americans rejoiced at the news of the acquittal of twenty-three of the twenty-five colored citizens on trial at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., for alleged rioting at Columbia, Tenn., on Feb. 25 of this year in which two Negroes were killed and four policemen wounded.

No other decision, except acquittal of the entire group, was to be expected if the jury was to consider only the evidence, or lack of evidence, against the accused.

The lawyers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are to be congratulated for their intelligent, courageous and spirited defense which resulted in the acquittal, and the newspapers of the country are to be praised for their contribution to a nationwide understanding of the issues involved.

The result may have been surprising to those who contended that no justice could be secured from an all-white jury in Southern Tennessee, and prophesied that this would be another Scottsboro case.

It is unfortunate that having fairly considered the evidence in the case, the Lawrenceburg jury could not bring itself to acquit ALL of the defendants instead of condemning two of the men to prison on evidence no stronger than that on which it acquitted the others.

The jury must have felt that it simply could not let ALL of the defendants go scott-free, but must take at least two hostages to racial supremacy, just to save the face of the white community.

As was to be expected, the defense attorneys are going to appeal the verdict in the case of the two convicted, and the chances are that a higher court will upset the conviction of these two unfortunates. *Sat. 10-12-46*

When we contrast the almost unhappy ending of this case with the outrageous miscarriage of justice in the case of the Elaine (Ark.) rioters (?) right after World War I, it would seem that America is making some progress in the direction of interracial justice.

## "Justice" in Tennessee

*The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.*  
With 23 defendants acquitted and appeals from the convictions of two others pending, the concluding chapters in last February's pogrom at Columbia, Tenn., are being

As long as our people remain in the South they can expect such shabby treatment. Their only salvation is to leave.

AFRO reporters who covered the trials at Columbia expect the outcome, and Lawrenceburg agree to a man that despite the outcome, there is little hope of ever obtaining justice for colored defendants in that section, where even those who administer the law are steeped in hate and prejudice.

The spectacle of law-abiding colored citizens on trial for defending themselves against marauding and terrorizing whites has always struck us as being a travesty on justice. No whites have yet been tried, although it was the whites who were responsible for the whole bloody affair. What a mockery!



# Prosecutor's Hitlerism Went Sour

*Daily Worker*  
By HARRY RAYMOND

*New York, N. Y.*  
(Reprinted from late editions of *The Worker*)

Twenty-four hours ago I was sitting at a rickety table watching a jury of 12 white men file into a rural courtroom in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Country store keeper Herbert Patterson, the foreman, held in his hand a piece of paper.

THE KNOXVILLE JOURNAL  
Thursday, October 10, 1946

There was silence. Spectators leaned forward. Every ear, every eye strained. A newspaper reporter whispered: "It's guilty." His voice carried to the seats reserved for the accused.

A man named Paul Bumpus, the prosecutor, eyed the piece of paper. He sized up the jury suspiciously. But there was an air of confidence at the defense table. Defense lawyer Z. Alexander Looby, his leg in a cast and propped on a chair, studied the jurors with tired eyes. His colleagues, Maurice M. Weaver and Dr. Leon A. Ransom, showed the strain of the long court battle. They had been in this court every day since Aug. 13. It was an uphill battle they had fought.

Twenty-five Negroes, seated behind the defense table, knew their future and democratic freedom depended on the words written on the paper storekeeper Patterson was handing to Judge Joe M. Ingram. Only a few hours earlier these Negroes listened to two hours of vile denunciation. They heard Paul Bumpus deliver the most nauseating speech ever heard in a Tennessee courtroom.

Bumpus called them "rats." Those supporting their defense were called "lousy pimps and punks," "stinks." He called for wholesale hangings to "crush out these subversive vermin."

"Let's put those itchy fingers behind bars where they will be safe for many years," the prosecutor had shouted. He demanded that the twelve white men send the twenty-five dark-skinned men, one a 76-year-old patriarch, to prison cells for 21 years.

Those 25 innocent men had committed the "crime" of standing courageously against a rampaging white lynch mob on Feb. 25. There was some shooting. Four white policemen received buck-shot wounds in a darkened street. The man called Bumpus called this "attempt to murder." He failed to prove his charge with 30 witnesses. But one thing was proved. The defendants and other Negroes stopped a mob of white men from hanging James

Stephenson, Navy veteran and a Negro, that February night.

The man called Bumpus said he would resign as Attorney General if the jury refused to send the Negroes, each and every one, to the penitentiary for the maximum term.

Today, in New York City, I look back to that tense moment when storekeeper Patterson handed the piece of paper to Judge Ingram.

I do not know a single observer present in that courtroom who expected that all-white southern jury to render the historic verdict read in a halting manner by the judge.

Judge Ingram's face whitened as he read it. Two hours earlier he charged the jury in a manner "satisfactory" to the man called Bumpus. His Honor stumbled over words.

"We, the jury, find the defendants Julius Blair and James Morton not guilty," the judge read.

He read more names, making a total of 23, from the piece of paper: Sol Blair, Meade Johnson, James Thomas Bellanfart, William Bills, Clarence Brown, William Dawson, C. Clifford Edwards, Luther Edwards, Horace Gordon, Milton Johnson, Calvin Lockridge, John Lockridge, Raymond Lockridge, Webster Matthews, Lewis Miles, Jr., William Pillow, Early Scott, Charlie Smith, Napoleon Stewart and Gene Williams. All of these were declared not guilty by the jury.

Here was an epochal victory for justice. The man called Bumpus, his two assistants and blustering highway Patrol Boss Lynn Bomar appeared stunned.

Their faces lightened for a moment, however, when the court read the names of Robert Gentry and John McKivins. "Guilty of attempt to commit murder in the first degree," was the verdict. "Twenty-one years in the Tennessee State penitentiary."

This gross miscarriage of justice was based on a few small lines of circumstantial evidence drawn from a terrorized 17-year-old Ne-

gro girl. But the attorneys who won freedom for the 23 are preparing the Gentry-McKivins appeal this very moment. The fight for their exoneration and freedom is already underway, with defense lawyers calling on all freedom-loving Americans to back their legal efforts.

All factors leading to the jury's historic verdict in the case of the 23 are not yet known. But it was obvious to all observers at the trial that a new wind is blowing in the southland. The white farmers and carpenters and the storekeeper and the chemical worker and the sawmill operator that made up the Columbia jury expressed disgust over the violent language, the red-baiting, the fascist talk of the man called Bumpus. J. R. Bradley, chemical worker and juror, carried on a losing fight in the jury room for freedom of Gentry and McKivins.

Lawyers Looby, Weaver and Ransom presented the 12 Lawrence County jurors the most effective argument they ever heard for social justice. The man called Bumpus and Judge Ingram spoke for American fascism. 10-7-46

One thing can be said definitely: Jimcrow has been struck a heavy blow.



**CONVICTED IN RIOT TRIAL**—Robert Gentry (left), 24, and John McKivins, 26, walk out of the courthouse at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., smiling after an all-white jury convicted them on charges of attempting to commit murder. Twenty-three other Negro defendants were acquitted. Charges grew out of a racial clash in Columbia, Tenn., last Feb. 25. (AP).

acquired, there would have been few comments and little discussion across the nation. The verdict would have been in keeping with expectations. Nobody expected the 25 defendants to have a fair trial in Tennessee, home of the bloody riot of last February. Nobody expected the case to be tried on its merits. The pessimism of the American people was justified by their experience with southern justice which heretofore had

*Justice Triumphs in Tennessee*  
*The Daily Worker, N.Y. 10-11-46*  
Because justice and a fair and impartial trial are basic American rights, it is ironical that surprise and amazement were the first reactions of most Americans to the acquittal of 23 of the 25 defendants in the Tennessee riot trials.

Had 23 of the 25 men been found guilty and two



been a mixture of lynching parties and kangaroo courts.

But the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., jury—all-white—surprised the nation and the South by dealing with the facts and arriving at an honest—and courageous—verdict. It was not easy for white men, many of whom admitted Ku Klux Klan membership, to walk out of a courtroom charged with racial tensions and open threats and return with a verdict freeing Negroes charged with attacking other white men. It took courage for those jurors to stand up for their convictions instead of going along with the state's attorneys and the prevailing sentiment in the area.

The action of that Tennessee jury was a victory for justice over the Klan spirit. The jurors alone, however, are not responsible for the verdict. Their action was made possible by the brilliant performance in court of the three N.A.A.C.P. lawyers who defended the 25 men on trial. These able lawyers presented the facts so clearly and convincingly that even former Klan members, could see the truth.

This case marks a significant victory for the Negro lawyer. If it took courage for white men to go against the prevailing sentiment, it took double that courage for Negroes to go into a southern court and fight for their rights against all odds. Negro lawyers have proved their ability time and again in northern courts and in the United States Supreme court but it remained for the Tennessee trial to give them their first real victory on southern soil.

The public at large will never know what Leon A. Ransom and Z. Alexander Looby, together with their white co-counsel, Maurice Weaver, withstood in order to win this case. For weeks, they not only suffered threats, rebuffs, intimidations and discourtesies from the state's attorneys and the court itself but they were further handicapped by the physical discomfort of having to travel 150 miles between Nashville and Lawrenceburg every day because the trial city had no place for Negroes to eat or sleep.

In citing the ability of the defense lawyers to present their case, we do not minimize the courage the Tennessee jurors showed in acting honestly upon the facts. Many a southern jury has acted contrary to the preponderance of evidence in order to keep in tune with prevailing sentiment.

Tennessee is joining other semi-progressive southern states in leading the South out of darkness. It was this state which abolished its poll tax while other southern states still resisted the campaign against this undemocratic system.

*The Chronicle* **A REAL TRIUMPH**  
We are happy to admit that our own expressed misgivings about the outcome of the Tennessee riot trial were ill-founded. We were dead wrong. The all white jury acquitted 23 of the 25 Negro defendants in the Columbia riot trial, and rendered the surprising verdict after less than two hours of deliberation. It was not only a triumph for the de-

fendants, but it was a triumph for the white citizens who served on the jury. This all white jury has done more to restore our hopes for the South than all the speeches of the Southern liberals. *Sat. 10-12-44*

These rank and file Southern whites on the jury, including one who admitted he believed in some of the principles of the Ku Klux Klan, stubbornly refused to let racial prejudice destroy their sense of justice. As the defense attorney stated, this verdict was a "victory for Americanism." As long as this can happen in the South with all of its hate-customs and traditions, no Negro has any to change the South and make it decent place for reason to despair of our democracy.

This trial has given us new hope in the efforts all regardless of color. This trial was a far cry from the Scottsboro scandal of a generation ago. Some progress has been made and it should convince us that more progress is possible in the years ahead. The excellent work of the NAACP, which went to bat for the defendants has borne good fruit. We hope that we have witnessed the beginning of a new day for Southern justice and that these white jurors in Tennessee have given us good reason for hope.

## *New York, N.Y.* **A Blow at Jimcrow** *Daily Worker* *Mon. 10-17-46*

**A**LTHOUGH the freedom of two defendants still remains to be fought for, the verdict of a white Tennessee jury freeing 23 of the 25 Negroes who fought back against the threat of a lynching in Columbia is a historic victory against oppression of the Negro people.

True, the case against them was crude and raw. But there have been innumerable other such cases in the South and they have not resulted in freedom of the intended victims.

If the all-white jury did not go through with a legal lynching this time, it is because of two great developments in recent years.

First, there is the new spirit growing in the South, partly as a result of the war and partly as a result of the increasing strength of the trade union movement and its progressive allies.

Second, there is the larger awareness of the South and its struggles by the people of the entire nation, and a growing solidarity with the Negro people and the forces of democracy in their struggle against semi-feudal reaction.

The intended victims of Jimcrow justice in Columbia won the sympathy and support of the people of the North, as well as of many citizens of the South.

But the struggle is far from over in this case. Freedom must be won for the two who were convicted and sentenced to 21-year terms on the flimsiest of grounds.

Several other prosecutions are still pending, including those against James Stephenson, young Negro war veteran, and his mother, whose defense against the assault

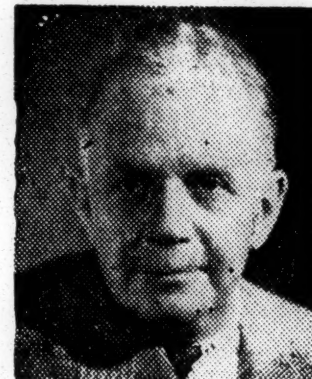
of a white shopkeeper incited the lynch mob to start the incident.

All these need to be fought through to the end, without permitting the partial victory won thus far to cause a let-down. It is part of the continuous struggle against lynching and Jimcrow oppression.

## **Walter White**

*The Defender*  
**Incredible Acquittal** *Chicago, Ill.*

**T**HE acquittal of 23 of the 25 Negroes charged with attempted murder in connection with the racial disorders at Columbia, Tenn., last February is, in the light of the manner in which the trial was conducted and the environment, incredible. It is a tribute to the American sense of fair play. The jury, *Sat. 10-19-46* composed of Tennessee farmers, was so outraged by the Nazi-like tactics of Judge Joe Ingram and Prosecutor Paul Bumpus that the twelve good men and true revolted and thereby chalked up a notable victory for decency.



Defense counsel dared hope at most for a hung jury. When the verdict was handed to Judge Ingram by the foreman, the jurist stared in silent incredulity for several minutes before he read the verdict to the hushed courtroom. Prosecutor Bumpus and one of his assistants, Hugh Shelton, sat in stunned silence for several minutes and then rose slowly to leave the courtroom. But the youngest of the prosecutors, Bud Harwell, rushed across the dingy courtroom to congratulate the three defense lawyers and to express his admiration for the "wonderful defense" they had given the defendants. Maurice Weaver, exuberant young Southern white Navy veteran, broke the tension by jumping to his feet and exclaiming, "This verdict makes me proud to be an American!"

If you have read Vincent Sheean's brilliant dispatches from Lawrenceburg, you will understand the importance of this verdict. During the war a number of Southern communities and some Northern cities were reputed to be investing considerable sums in tear gas, guns and other equipment to handle situations which might arise from returning Negro veterans believing that their status as citizens should be better after the war because of their service in the armed forces. Organized labor was also marked as one of the targets. Cordons of "peace officers" were to be thrown about any area in which trouble developed and, if deemed necessary, was to be used to "quiet trouble-makers."

**Background**

**T**HIS IS what happened in Columbia. A 19-year old Navy veteran resented a radio repairman kicking and striking his mother and knocked his mother's assailant through a plate-glass window. A mob attempted to lynch the veteran and his mother. One hundred and six Negroes were arrested and admitted to bail only after writs of habeas corpus were asked in their behalf. Two were killed under mysterious circumstances in jail. Every indication pointed to an American Lidice. A change of venue was

lawyers were driving from Nashville to Lawrenceburg—a round trip of 160 miles daily—and the men narrowly escaped death. Judge Ingram fined each of the lawyers \$50 for "contempt of court" because they were half an hour late. They could not even purchase food over night. Judge Ingram refused to obtain a drink of water. Judge Ingram ruthlessly overruled every defense motion while Bumpus threatened to "wrap a chair" around the head of one of the Negro lawyers "if that court" contradicts me again. A tire blew out on the car in which the three correspondents could remain in Lawrenceburg



**A Triumph Over The Klan**  
*The Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 10-10-46*  
 Walter White, Secretary of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, rightly observed that the acquittals for 23 Negroes charged with "attempted murder" in connection with the racial disturbances seven months ago in Columbia, Tenn. was a "triumph of American justice over the Klan." Maurice Weaver, liberal white Chattanooga, Tenn. defense attorney for the Negroes, termed the verdict a "victory for Americanism."

With both of these views, we heartily agree. The eyes of the world were riveted upon the course and conduct of these proceedings. The extreme belligerency of the white witnesses, including many officers of the law, gave the outside world a severe shock at times to know that such testimony would be admitted in a court of law. Even the presiding judge appeared at times to be a victim of the circumstances under which he had labored.

And Mr. White, who hailed the victory and lauded the defense attorneys, was correct when he observed: "We are very grateful to the many individuals and organizations who worked loyally with the National Committee for justice in Tennessee and to those members of the press, whose editorial support helped to make this verdict possible. 'No tribute could possibly be too great for the three defense lawyers, who under the most trying conditions, fought courageously to insure the defendants a fair trial.'"

There are other Negroes yet to be tried. Robert Gentry, 24 year-old barbershop porter, and John McKivens, 26 alone were convicted of holding shotguns which struck down patrolman Will Wilsford and three other officers in Columbia's darkened Mink Slide Negro business area. They were convicted of attempted murder and the jury set their sentence at "not more than 21 years," in the penitentiary. Their new trials will be argued October 18. Additional funds are going to be needed in order to provide counsel for these men. We hope all Negroes will consider the remaining seven individuals with the same sympathy and solicitation as the 23 who won acquittals.

## Mr. Sheean's Mirage

*The Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 10-19-46*

Many thoughtful persons will bat their eyes and wonder if they grasp the true meaning of the last paragraphs in the last article which Vincent Sheean wrote about the so-called Mink Slide trial at Lawrenceburg, Tenn. This they will do despite their gratitude to the New York Herald Tribune for engaging the services of Mr. Sheean to tell the Nation about what was happening in Lawrenceburg and their genuine admiration for Mr. Sheean's sensitive, broad and philosophic coverage and interpretation of the trial. His reports were so suffused with his own generous spirit that it is puzzling to find him finally expressing the credo of Mark Ethridge, to wit: that the South resents so-called outside interference with its race problem and that it must be left alone to handle it by itself.

After describing the type of jurors who brought in the verdict freeing twenty-three of the defendants, Mr. Sheean writes:

"Into their hands, and into the hands of the white youth of the South, this problem must, of course, be entrusted for any solution it is likely to have. The one thing I felt to be perfectly valid in Mr. Bumpus'

thesis was the idea which lay beneath all the vituperation, to wit: that this is primarily a Southern problem and the intrusion of any element from other parts of our society is likely to be resented—and, being so resented, is likely to make things worse rather than better.

Doctrinaire elements of the extreme left are no more helpful in this matter than is Mr. Bumpus himself. The Negroes have a long, hard row to hoe, but those who wish to help them will have to learn how to appeal to the good-will of the Southern white men, our brothers and our fellow-citizens who have so magnificently proved their mettle by this verdict."

We hesitate to question the above comment for fear of being misunderstood just as we may misunderstand Mr. Sheean. In taking exception to this part of what Mr. Sheean has written, we want it understood that we do not question his sincerity nor his honest belief that he "saw something" at Lawrenceburg. In terms of what Mr. Sheean has written above, we believe that if he saw anything it was a mirage and that he has deceived himself in the same manner desert travelers frequently do. He just thought he saw something.

The Courier subscribes to the view that Negroes and other Americans of good-will, wherever they live, should seek industriously to cooperate with that growing minority of whites in the South who are honestly trying to do something about the race problem. It supports that minority and wants to work with it. But The Courier is aware that honest minority neither pays the fiddler nor calls the tune in the South. Regardless of the verdict returned by the jury of twelve good men and true and of the abhorrence of racism which Mr. Sheean observed among returned veterans, it is unquestionable that men of the type of Bumpus and Bomar and Ingram and Bilbo and Eastland and Rankin and Talmadge, backed and incited frequently by outside Northern capital, control and rule the South. They are going to do so for sometime.

If the minority which Mr. Sheean saw were dominant we might share Mr. Sheean's forlorn optimism about the "long, hard row" Negroes must hoe, but inasmuch as they constitute only a flash of sunlight in the overhanging clouds of an entrenched system of racism every bit as brutal and uncompromising as Hitler's, we must reject Mr. Sheean's thesis that the solution of the so-called Negro problem be prioritized to the hands of white Southerners.

Prior to the Civil War, the abolitionists were what Mr. Sheean now sums up as the "doctrinaire element of the extreme left," were held in the same regard. There were men of goodwill in those days, even as Mr. Sheean, who were content to allow the South to handle the issue of slavery alone. They steered clear of the South until the South itself brought the war to them. It took Lincoln three years to inject the issue of slavery into the war and then only as an experiment. We would still have slavery if the problem had been left to the white South.

Further, this is one nation. The South's handling of the race problem shames the entire Nation before the entire world. Every American shares some responsibility for the good name of this Nation, its prestige and its influence. No one section can be permitted to tarnish the escutcheon of the Nation as a whole without challenging the sense of responsibility of the citizens of other sections. Mr. Sheean himself wrote that the theory of "collective guilt" employed at Lawrenceburg was torn from the book of the Nazis at Lidice. Even though the theory did not prevail at Lawrenceburg, it has prevailed

Street Baptist church on Friday night, December 13, to pay a tribute to Zachary Taylor, the "Lawrenceburg Front." But the warning tribute to Zachary Taylor, the "Lawrenceburg Front," was a tribute to the chief of counsel of the array of attorneys and most certainly was NAACP lawyers mobilized to de-standard of those given the other fended the outraged Columbia colored citizens and most certainly was defend themselves against, mo' kind colored citizens have been indicted and forced into a management in not having a photograph present to take a picture of the affair hindered in the nation. The NAACP attorneys, before transmitting to posterity the full an all-white jury at Lawrenceburg story of Nashville's tribute to one burg secured acquittals for 23 of her sons who brought it glory the indicted men and forced the in one of the greatest battles ever prosecution to drop the cases fought to vindicate the Constitution against the two who were found guilty, because of a lack of additional evidence. Already at Chattanooga, public-spirited citizens glorified the competence and had given a testimonial dinner for courage of Mr. Loozy as a lawyer. Attorney Maurice Weaver, while the distinguished attorney, him- Navy veteran of World War II, self, responded to these tributes who was one of the attorneys, with a short and very effective speech in Washington and New York speech. He said it made him feel testimonial dinners had been ten that Nashvilleans really were "be-

# Defense Attorney In Columbia Case Lauded As Hero

*Globe and Independent, Nashville, Tenn. Fri. 12-20-46*

More Than 300 Citizens Hear Guest of Honor  
 and Rev. Calvin Lockridge Review Stir-  
 ring Battle Waged for Civil Liberty

Nashvillians and a goodly number of other towns overflowed the spacious dining hall of Spruce of citizens from Columbia and



hind him" but that when the bat- Amen" and just about ready to go home from Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, one from the well-known Met odist laym n, Attorney Noah Cooper; President Chas. S. Johnson of Fisk University; Dean and Mrs. George W. Core of A. and I. State College; Mrs. Daisy the closing speech Attorney Looby Lampkins of the NAACP New York office; Richard Westbrook of the National Bar Association. One of the most interesting of the rather preferred to give the high theories about this being a "white est tribute to those "patriots at man's country" and declared that Thurgood Marshall, who was in Columbia" who stood when all both the white man and the black Texas waging the legal fight to was against them. He referred to man were "foreigners" on Amer- get colored citizens admitted to that awful raid made on the col- can soil in the logical conclusions the law school of the University ored section at Columbia by the of the Indians from whom white of Texas. Mr. Marshall referred minions of the law and how their men, with the assistance of Ne- to Mr. Looby as having contrib machine gun fire riddled a barber shop, stole the country. It waste the major factor in the success shop in which two of the defend- the speech in which Looby also, the trial of the Columbia de- ants were hiding. It was miracle- debunked the white man's claim ants by his thorough and tious. Mr. Looby stated, how these to owning so much property, painstaking preparation of the le- men ever escaped being shot to "Naked we came into the world gal papers in the case and said death. He also paid a tribute to and naked we shall leave it" was at. Looby's knowledge of Ten the veteran Julius Blair whom he the truth he thundered. Rev. essee law made him the "Rock said at one time when the men on Lockridge stated that it cost \$30.00 of Gibraltar" for the defense in trial were destitute because of be- to get a transcript of Looby's the memorable trial.

ing out of work and forced to speech, which it is claimed held All the local colored attorneys stand the long ordeal of the trial Judge Ingram and Prosecutor were present and highly enjoyed personally gave to the men (Mr. Bumpus spellbound and is be- the tribute paid their colleague, or money, depending upon their lieved to have had such effect on These included the dean of col- needs, and these individual sums the jury as to have rendered futile ored lawyers at the local bar, Wal- were from Five to Fifty Dollars, the long prosecutor's tirade which ter S. Walker; Attorney C. L. En

What inspired the defense law- not answered he felt the Lord nix, Attorneys R. B. J. Campbell ers in their effort to thwart the wanted him to take up a gun and nd Jasper C. Horne. Mr. Horne effort to imprison the Columbia defend himself. *Nashville, Tenn.* made the introduction speech of defendants was that the attorneys A program of short speeches and Attorney Looby. A beautiful and believed that if the law succeeded music was rendered while the ces ly Brief case was presented to in imprisoning persons for de- diners partook of an elaborate Mr. Looby by President M. G. fending themselves against mob dinner consisting of turkey and Ferguson at the end of the pro- violence in Columbia. Tennessee the trimmings. Speakers included gram. it would encourage outbreaks of Dr. W. J. Faulkner and Dean A. Music for the program was mob terrorism in other parts of the A. Taylor of Fisk University; Dr. furnished by soloists Rev. Jerome United States. H. H. Walker of the Cameron Post I. Wright and Mr. K. Gardner.

Mr. Looby stated that the de- No. 6, American Legion; Secretary The program was begun with fense counsel, throughout the trial, Mr. Bumpus delivered for, the opening remarks from M. W. Day, That he did not and never does go State. *Fri. 12-20-46* the advertising manager of the into a trial in the role of a "Negro who, when the tension was highest man of the executive committee of lawyer" nor put his client in the at Columbia, and while he was in the local NAACP Branch. He role of a "Negro client." He jail, replied to those officers who presented Dr. Ralph W. Riley. stated that colored lawyers must asked him why he didn't continue president of the American Baptist make their fights as American himself to praying the night when Theological Seminary, who served lawyers and contend for every the mob threatened the colored as master of ceremonies. Hostess right the Constitution guarantees section, stated that he had been es for the banquet included Miss a citizen even when defending the- praying for twenty years," asking Marie Mayberry, Mrs. Nollez and the humblest of colored citizens. The the Lord to stop lynchings in Co Mrs. E. E. Burnett, officials of the colored lawyer, he stated, has a bumbia and when his prayers were local NAACP Branch. More than definite part to play in making E. A. Selby of the AME Sunday 300 guests were served at the democracy real in the United School Union; Rev. W. S. Elling- dinner which cost the diners \$2.00 States, and the place to begin that ton, veteran pastor of First Baptist a plate. fight is right here in the South. church, East Nashville, who ex- pressed the belief that the pray- ers Nashville people offered up

There is no virtue whatever in the plea of those advisors who are always saying "the time isn't rig t" for insisting on full justice and full democracy for any class of citizens. He pledged always to take an uncompromising stand for colored citizens to receive the full protection of the laws of their country. "They who would be free, must themselves strike the blow," the speaker said in con- clusion. *Globe and Independent*

While Attorney Looby was the Lockridge, two of the acquitted honoree of the big dinner, and defendants and Mrs. B. F. Cox fully lived up to expectations in Treasurer of the Local NAACP his short but effective address, it Branch.

remained for a young Baptist pastor to supply the speaking program with gems of oratory, that nearly had the diners saying Looby. These included a splen-



## A SURPRISE WITNESS AT TENNESSEE TRIAL:

# Grandmother Tells Court of Arrests

*Daily Worker*  
New York, N.Y.

Thurs. 10-3-46

By Harry Raymond

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn., Oct. 2.—A little grandmother sounded the alarm that rallied the Columbia Negro community against a growling lynch mob on Feb. 25. She was the 20th defense witness in the trial of the 25 Columbia Negroes. She is Mrs. Hannah Peppers. And she told how white men "jumped on" her daughter to see you. They have my children. Mrs. Gladys Stephenson and her in jail. I want you to make bond. grandson James Stephenson on the He said, "What have they done?" public square. She told a hostile He kind of hesitated. I said I heard court how the two were jailed some kind of remark about going to threatened with lynching, but firal hang them. He said, "I'll see about ly taken from jail by Julius Blair. it. You go home and don't worry." elderly Negro community leader. and carried to safety.

Mrs. Peppers' testimony highlighted the closing defense proof in the historic Columbia trial.

Her surprise appearance on the witness stand supplied the missing link of a long chain of defense evidence.

District Attorney Paul Bumpus failed to prove any defendants fired the shots on that February night that wounded four policemen. But Mrs. Peppers' story shows any shots coming from Negro guns were fired in self defense and justified.

Mrs. Peppers recited her story calmly, without hesitation and without prompting from defense lawyer Dr. Leon A. Ransom. Ransom asked very few questions.

She had heard her daughter Gladys had been slugged on the square by Will Fleming, white radio repair man. Her grandson, James, knocked Fleming through a plateglass window.

"I learned the white people jumped on them down town and took them to jail," Mrs. Peppers said. "I went to the jail about noon. I asked the Sheriff if I could pay them out of jail. He first refused to let me see them. Then he let me them, peeping through the iron bars. He said I'd have to put up bonds."

Mrs. Pepper left the jail. She headed toward the square.

"Did anything on the square alarm you about the safety of your grandson and daughter?" Ransom asked.

"In crossing the square I saw some white men gathered around," she replied. "I heard one say we're going to take those two niggers out of jail and hang them. They were bunched off on the square. It unnerved me and I just brushed on and went to see Julius Blair."

Julius Blair investigated. He learned a mob was on the prowl. He rushed to the jail, took the Stephensons out on \$2,500 bail each. Sol Blair, his son, put James Stephenson in a car and after two break-downs along dark roads landed the Negro youth in Union Station in Nashville. There Stephenson, a Navy veteran, boarded a train for Chicago and safety.

Meanwhile, the white mob, searching for the lad, menaced the Negro community. Shots were fired. Four policemen received wounds.

An all-white jury is being asked today to send Julius Blair, his son Sol and 23 other Negroes to prison for 20 years. This is the demand of a vengeful prosecutor, a man who says the Ku Klux Klan is an organization "standing for Americanism."

## New York K of C's Rap Intolerance

SARANAC LAKE, N.Y. (ANP)—A resolution against all practices of intolerance and discrimination was adopted by the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus in annual meeting here, recently. The resolution presented to the council by Julian J. Reiss, commissioner of the State Commission Against Discrimination, reaffirms the practice in the New York Council of welcoming qualified colored applicants to membership in the Knights of Columbus.

That only from 12 to 15 colored members belong to the lodge in the whole of the State was attributed by Mr. Reiss to the fact that there is a widespread idea that colored persons were not accepted as members. 7-6-46

## Negro Group Upholds

*The Advertiser*  
Tennessee Verdict  
Montgomery, Ala. 10-6-46

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—(AP)—The

Walter White, executive secretary of the association, issued the statement. The men referred to were Negroes accused of participating in disorders at Columbia, Tenn., last Feb. 25 in which two Negroes were killed and four white policemen were wounded. "We are very grateful to the many individuals and organizations who worked loyally with the national committee for justice in Tennessee," the statement said, "and to those members of the press whose editorial support helped make this verdict possible."

The statement added: "No tribute could possibly be too great for the three defense lawyers who, under the most trying conditions, fought courageously to insure the defendants a fair trial."

## Athens Regretful Over Riot Reports

ATHENS, Ala. — According to County Judge D. L. Rose, this town "has never before been wracked by such a calamity" as the widely publicized "race riot" of last Saturday. And that statement constitutes one of many expressions of remorse on the part of local whites over the disturbance.

On the other hand, colored residents are either amused by the statement that they were "chased like rabbits" or indignant that anyone would believe they let themselves be chased.

Anxiety among whites is due chiefly to the fear that some pressure group may come into the town and exploit the incident as un-American.

## Mayor Calls Meeting

An interracial meeting, called by the Mayor 24 hours after the fracas, was designed to make the residents feel that the trouble was caused by rural elements, aug-

ments by hoodlum cotton mill workers, and not the better class of people. Sat. 8-24-46

State highway patrolmen, apparently acting on orders from high-ups in State government, guarded the Village View settlement on the night of the disturbance and since have told leading citizens that every protection will be given them.

Persons, who are amused about the affair, point out that they knew of no disturbance whatsoever until they, like the rest of the nation, heard radio accounts and began to receive phone calls from distant relatives and friends.

## Many Unmolested

Those indignant include several who profess to have been around the square at the height of the demonstration or who crossed town or attended to business without being molested.

It is strongly argued by most Athenians that nobody was "chased out of town." At most, they say, some colored persons were forced to flee the vicinity of the town square but no mobsters invaded the residential sections.

## Mink Slide: The Aftermath

*Chicago, Ill.*

At 5 o'clock one afternoon last week, an all-white jury filed into the trial room of the Lawrenceburg, Tenn. courthouse and faced pink, plump Circuit Judge Joe Ingram. For two tense weeks, 25 Tennessee Negroes had been on trial, 23 of them charged with the attempted murder of four white policemen in the ill-famed Mink Slide race riot at Columbia (TIME, March 11). Now, after one hour and 53 minutes of deliberation, the verdict was in: two guilty; 23 not guilty. Exclaimed white Defense Attorney Maurice Weaver jubilantly: "A victory for Americanism." 10-14-46

Attorney Weaver was holding himself in. In the more than seven months following the night of shooting, Southern race prejudice had got such a thorough airing that acquittal for any of the defendants seemed like a minor miracle.

The incident had begun when a young Negro struck a white man. A white mob formed; the four policemen who were shot were mistaken by the Negroes for members of the mob, which surged into Mink Slide, Columbia's Negro district.

After the shooting, state troopers rounded up 104 Negroes, practically all of Mink Slide's male population, and grilled them mercilessly. Two were killed while "trying to escape." The troopers made a sizable shambles of Mink Slide before the list of suspects was arbitrarily narrowed from 104 to 25.

What's a Psychoneurosis? Later, because of the bitter feeling in Columbia, the trial had been moved to neighboring Lawrenceburg. But even in Lawrenceburg 736 talesmen had had to be questioned before twelve reasonably unprejudiced jurors could be found. During this process, Judge Ingram struck a snag. One talesman's medical certificate, which reported a psychoneurosis, set him frowning. After spelling the word out to himself, the Judge leaned forward and asked the man sympathetically: "Where does it hurt? What ails you?" One of the defense lawyers, a Negro, respectfully explained the term to the Judge.

The trial itself was hardly recommended reading for law students. Once, when the demurrers of Defense Attorney Dr. Leon A. Ransom (a Negro) got under the skin of Prosecutor Bumpus, he threatened to wrap a chair around Ransom's head. Judge Ingram often overruled defense objections before they could be completely stated.

Yet, to the astonishment of Lawyer Bumpus and almost everyone else, from Lawrenceburg to Mink Slide, the jurors took their oath seriously. Correspondent Vincent Sheean, who had covered the trial with mild hysteria, called the jury's action "the kind of thing that makes us realize the full splendor of our destiny as a nation."

## Southern Justice Stands Up

*York Times*

A VERDICT of not guilty for 23 of the 25 defendants on trial for attempted murder in the Columbia, Tenn. race riots of last February is heartening evidence that Negroes in the upper South can still expect approximate justice from an all-white jury. If some doubt remains as to the individual guilt of the two defendants who must go to prison for what was a community crime in which both whites and Negroes shared the blame, it can hardly be expanded into a cause to stir up further prejudice.

The trial at Lawrenceburg, to which a change of venue had removed it from near-Columbia, was not reassuring. The prosecution conducted its case in a calculated atmosphere of Bolboism. Its predominant appeal to local prejudice may be judged by the closing argument of Attorney General Paul Bumpus, who centered his denunciation on "carpet-baggers, rabble-rousers and traitors who would crucify America to further their own ends of a well-organized scheme to uproot our Government." Submitting flamboyant flap-doodle

overwhelming majority of them were patently not responsible. The obvious duty of clearing them was manfully performed by the jury. But the jury was headed by a white man. The Columbia riots cast an ominous doubt on the ability of Southern whites and Negro citizens for a crime for which they



groes to live peaceably together in the period of readjustment which must take place during the return of Negro veterans to their homes. The fires lighted there have been stamped back to embers and should send no flying sparks to other towns. Southern justice has met its test in difficult surroundings.

## 23 of 25 Negroes Are Acquitted In Tennessee Racial Disorders

*The Times New York, N.Y.*

Sat. 10-5-46 Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

### Gratifying Turn in L'Affaire Columbia

*Times-Dispatch Richmond, Va.*

THE only two Negroes out of 25 accused who were convicted at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., in the recent much-publicized "Columbia case," are now to have another hearing. CIRCUIT JUDGE J. M. INGRAM, who presided in the recent trials, announces that he is not satisfied with the evidence presented against the two men. The motion for a new trial was granted only 10 minutes after its presentation by counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. *Tues. 10-29-46*

Here is still another piece of evidence that the South handles these matters far more equitably than many of our friends in other sections are willing to admit. Those outside critics were confident that all 25 of the Negroes who were tried at Lawrenceburg on charges of the wounding and attempted murder of white policemen at Columbia, Tenn., last February would get the maximum penalty, but 23 were acquitted, and the other two, who got up to 21 years, are to have another hearing.

This is not to say that the Columbia community and the State of Tennessee now are absolved of all blame. The behavior of the Tennessee State police, under LYNN BOMAR, after the racial disorder at Columbia was utterly inexcusable, and some of the members should have been prosecuted. They wrecked an entire Negro business section with wanton brutality and wholesale arrests, and nobody has been punished for these crimes. Until somebody is, it will have to be said that equal and exact justice has not been meted out in Tennessee.

Perhaps if there were less extremism on both sides of the interracial line, these matters would be handled with greater justice for all concerned. JONATHAN DANIELS puts his finger on one of the major difficulties when he points out, in his lively and successful new book, *Frontier on the Potomac*, that "there are perhaps no two men in the House [of Representatives] more alike than JOHN ELLIOTT RANKIN and ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR." He adds: "They seem the shouters of the opposite invectives. . . . Both are oratorically violent. They seem almost designed as two individual and opposite symbols of a race riot."

It is an analysis made with MR. DANIELS' usual discernment. For as long as such extremists as RANKIN, of Mississippi, and POWELL, of Harlem, insist upon having their say on these explosive issues, the rest of us are apt to suffer. If either the RANKIN or the POWELL point of view had been represented on the bench or in the jury at Lawrence-

burg, the outcome might have been far different. As matters stand, the jury and the court have vindicated the faith of Southerners of good will, and have shown the nation that this section often gets much less than justice in the verdicts of its critics.

### It Couldn't Happen, But It Did

THE goggle-eyed amazement of those zealots who were certain that every one of the 25 colored defendants at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., would get the maximum penalty from the all-white jury which tried them, is one of the most amusing phenomena of recent months. The amazement is due, of course, to the preconceived notions which these critics of the South brought with them to the trial. They had been reading the *Nation*, the *New Republic*, *PM* and similar publications, so they "knew" in advance that the poor Negroes at the bar were certain to "get the works."

When 23 of the 25 Negro defendants were acquitted of any part in the wounding of four white policemen from ambush—although the policemen were certainly wounded by unidentified Negroes who fired on them in the darkness with shotguns—the reformers and the professional agitators could scarcely believe it. This trial grew out of the only serious large-scale interracial clash the South has seen since the end of the Second World War, and it just didn't fit into the Southern pattern, as designed in Harlem, for anything but a "legal lynching" to take place.

VINCENT SHEEAN is the most perfect and most amusing example of the inability of our Northern friends to anticipate what happened in the Lawrenceburg trial. After comparing Lawrenceburg to Lidice, he is now honest enough to compliment the jury most fervently on its unbiased verdict. MR. SHEEAN says that the verdict "was the kind of thing that makes us realize the full splendor of our destiny as a nation."

"It would probably have been impossible under the conditions to free them all," MR. SHEEAN goes on, "and the two who were found guilty were in fact the only ones against whom the State brought any kind of proof connecting them with the shooting. . . . Hitherto it had been generally assumed that these 25 men would be condemned indiscriminately. . . . The effect of the verdict upon those who heard it was stunning. I doubt if anybody in the courtroom expected this result."

The famous foreign correspondent reaches the altogether sound conclusion in his valedictory on Lawrenceburg that the problem behind the trial "is primarily a Southern problem and the in-

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn., Oct. 4—An all-white jury this afternoon acquitted all but two of twenty-five Negroes accused of participating in the disorders at Columbia, Tenn., last Feb. 25, in which two Negroes were killed and four white policemen were wounded.

The jury took the case at 3:07

trusion of any element from the other parts of our society is likely to be resented—and being so resented is likely to make things worse rather than better." As, for instance, the first two far-from-helpful articles MR. SHEEAN himself wrote, comparing Lawrenceburg to Lidice, and taking the general line that Tennessee is culturally about on a level with New Guinea or the Fiji Islands.

Now that it is all over, this episode ought to be productive of much good. It may even open the eyes of those who are exaggerating the number of lynchings in the South five times over, with a view to getting some sort of drastic legislation through Congress. No one would contend that the South is perfect, or anything like perfect. But it is making an earnest effort, under Southern leadership, to solve its complex problems fairly and equitably. The whole region owes a debt of thanks to the 12 jurymen at Lawrenceburg—plain, honest American citizens—who did their duty and thereby silenced a whole army of outside critics who didn't believe it was even conceivable for Negroes who were charged with shooting white policemen to get justice from a jury of white Southerners.

### Navy Caste System Awakens Defender Chicago, Ill.

*Sat. 10-9-46*  
By ENOC P. WATERS  
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

"As a victim of the navy caste system during the war, I began to realize the plight of Negroes in America for the first time," Maurice Weaver disclosed in a Defender interview Saturday shortly after his arrival to address a dinner sponsored by the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee at the Parkway ballroom.

Weaver, a native of Chattanooga, is the only white attorney associated with the legal defense of 31 Negroes who were indicted on charges growing out of the Columbia, Tenn., pogrom of February 25.

New Trials Nov. 11

At the trial of 25 of the defendants that closed October 4, 23 were acquitted by a Lawrence County jury. New trials have already been granted for the two convict-

P. M. and brought in the verdict at 5 o'clock.

Convicted on a charge of attempted murder in the first degree while defense attorneys were Robert Gantry, 24 years old, and John McKivens, 26. The jury recommended punishment at confinement for not more than twenty-one years in the penitentiary.

Defense attorneys representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked Judge Joe M. Ingram for the time in which to file an appeal. They received until Oct. 18 to take such action.

Acquitted were Julius Blair, 76-year-old merchant, and James Morton, undertaker, who were charged with being accessories before the fact, and Sol Blair, James Thomas Bellanfant, William Bills, Clarence Brown, William Dawson, Clifford Edwards, Luther Edwards, Horace Gordon, Meade Johnson, Milton Johnson, Cal Lockridge, John Lockridge, Raymond Lockridge, Webster Matthews, Lewis Miles, Willie Pillow, Early Scott, Charley Smith, Napoleon Stewart and Gene Williams, all of whom were charged with attempted murder in the first degree. All are Negroes.

Sol Blair, Bellanfant and Meade Johnson also were charged as accessories in the indictment, but District Attorney General Paul F. Bumpus elected to try them only on the latter charge.

The courtroom was only about half-filled when the verdict was read, and most of those present were Negroes from Columbia, members of the families of the defendants. For the main part, they were jubilant, while white specta-

"The NAACP," he said, "seemed to me to be doing the best job along these lines, and I promptly joined the Chattanooga branch and became its only white member."

Shortly after becoming a member, the Columbia pogrom occurred and Walter White, executive secretary of the organization, called Donald Jones, NAACP field worker at that time in Chattanooga, and asked him to find a light-skinned Negro attorney who could "pass" to go to Columbia and gather evidence of the violation of Negroes' civil rights.

"I can do better than that," Weaver quoted Jones as telling White, "I've got a white attorney here anxious to serve the cause of democracy."

Weaver arrived on the scene in Columbia during the height of racial tension while Negro homes were being searched without warrants and looted, and Negroes themselves were being tossed into jail and held without charge.

On his return to Chattanooga, where he wasn't sure what sort of reception he would get from his white associates, he said he was surprised at the handshaking

tors sat silently. The Attorney General and his two assistants appeared stunned by the verdict while defense attorneys were elated.

All twenty-five defendants faced three to twenty-one years in prison upon conviction. They had been indicted for the shooting from ambush of a Columbia policeman who was struck by more than seventy-five bullets from shotguns fired by Negroes in Mink Slide, the Negro business district of the town, when he and three companions went there to investigate gunfire.

Selection of a jury began on Aug. 15 and continued until Sept. 19. About 750 prospective jurors were examined before the jury was completed.

Judge Ingram spent two hours in instructing the jury. Alexander Looby of Nashville, defense attorney, protested that the judge made minor changes in reading the defense's theory which put the defendants at a disadvantage. The Court granted the defense special requests for additions to the instructions.

In his closing argument this morning Mr. Bumpus repeated the State's insistence on a verdict of guilty for all the defendants and the maximum penalty for all. He denounced "carpetbaggers, rabble-rousers and traitors who would crucify America to further their own ends, or the ends of a well-organized scheme to uproot our Government."

Each side had six hours in which to present closing arguments. Gentry and McKivens were the only two defendants directly connected with the shooting by witnesses. A Negro girl testified for the State that she heard them say they had shot a policeman. Later, under cross-examination, she repudiated this statement.

Without these pressures, Weaver said, "most of the average white southerners would be willing to accord Negroes better treatment than they now receive."

Doubts Venue Change  
The jury's verdict, he said, was a revolt against reaction and the result of the isolation of the





## MINK SLIDE'S ALL-AMERICANS—

These are the men who were accused of taking part in a riot and wounding four policemen Feb. 25, in the Mink Slide section of Columbia, Tenn. All but two were acquitted by an all-white jury Friday in a Lawrence County court. Seated, left to right: Milton Johnson, Robert Gentry, one of the convicted men; Napoleon Stewart, Clarence Brown, Saul Blair (wearing bow tie), William (Moot) Bills, John Lockridge, John McKivens, the other convicted man; and James (Popeye) Behanfant. Standing: Julius Blair, Raymond Lockridge, Paul Miles, James Morton, Charles Smith, the Rev. Cal Lockridge, William Dawson, Webster Matthews, Lewis Miles, Clifford Edwards, Luther Edwards, Early Scott, Horace Gordon, William Piller, Meade Johnson and Gene Williams. Arrows point to convicted defendants.

## DEMOCRACY WINS IN DIXIE COURT

### NAACP Will Appeal Two Convictions; Prosecution Angry, Defense Pleased with Verdict

Sat. 10-12-46  
By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE  
(Staff Correspondent)

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn.—At 4:45 P. M., Friday, a juror came out of the dirty, junky jury room, almost unnoticed . . . He borrowed a fountain pen . . . As he returned and closed the squeaky door behind him, a quiet excitement began to hang over the dingy courtroom . . . The news began to spread, and spectators sought front seats . . . Optimistic defense attorneys, who really expected a "hung jury," sent for the defendants. Most of them were in the courthouse

yard, talking about everything but the outcome of the trial . . . A white photographer eased into the courtroom. Judge Joe Ingram spied his camera and said: "Get that thing out of here!"

### Blair, Morton Found Not Guilty

The bell in the town clock tolled five times . . . The courtroom was too quiet . . . All eyes were on that closed door of the jury room . . . At 5:02 P. M., a deputy whispered something to the judge . . . He left his sideline seat where he had been chatting with State's attorneys and walked to the bench . . . A seven-year-old white boy, who was rocking back and forth in one of the juror's chairs, was ordered to leave the jury box . . . The jurors strolled in and took their seats . . . The thirteenth and alternate juror was excused. . . . One defendant was missing . . . When he entered the room, Judge Ingram ordered the jury polled.

Satisfied that all parties in the trial were present, the stocky judge took the verdicts and read them . . . He fingered his nose and then re-read the verdicts . . . He stared at the jury, and then returned his eyes to the signed papers on his desk. "We'll take up the Blair and Morton case first. You gentlemen have written that 'We, the jury, find the defendants, Julius Blair and James Morton, not guilty of being accessories in the shooting of Policeman Will Willsford.'"

### Two Guilty, Others Acquitted

"Is that your verdict?" The jury replied: "It is." Then, the judge, who set some kind of record for overruling defense attorneys, turned to the second count of the indictment. "On this count, gentlemen, you find Robert Gentry and John McKivens guilty of attempted murder in the first degree and fix their sentence at not more than twenty-one years. Is that correct?" "That is correct." "You mean by this verdict that these two men are the only ones you found guilty and the others are acquitted? . . . Is that correct?" "That is correct."

### Defense Jubilant

Wives of the defendants sent up a deep sigh . . . District Attorney General Paul Bumpus turned red . . . Defense Attorney Maurice Weaver of Chattanooga almost jumped from his seat . . . Julius Blair,

the aged "mayor" of Mink Slide, nodded his white head in accord. The defendants were happy but quiet . . . They showed no emotions. Two of them had been found guilty of committing the same crime that all of them had been tried for. Attorney Weaver took the floor, and with the permission of the judge, thanked the jurors . . . As the jurors filed out of the room, defense attorneys and defendants grasped the hands of twelve shy and somewhat embarrassed men who proved that Negroes can receive justice in the South. *The Courier-Pittsburgh, Pa.*

### To File Appeal

Defense Attorney Z. Alexander Looby, his ailing leg propped upon a stool, smiled . . . Dr. Leon Ransom of Washington, another NAACP defense lawyer, asked Judge Ingram for time to file an appeal for Gentry and McKivens. Date for the hearing was set for Oct. 18.

Assistant District Attorney William Harwell came over and shook the hands of the defense attorneys . . . Floor of the old courtroom creaked as the last man passed out . . . The trial was over . . . Democracy had ruled supreme—it had been given a new start in a Dixie courtroom. *Sat. 10-12-46*

The two-month-old trial of the Columbia (Tenn.) race riot was sensational and full of explosions . . . During the five weeks it re-Vincent Sheean, white feature writer and author, during a courtroom quired to select the jury, the district attorney general at one time threatened to wrap a chair around the head of Defense Attorney Ransom, and one prospective juror expressed the opinion that all n—rs should be sent back to Africa.

### Feared Explosion Did Not Materialize

During testimony given at the trial, Judge Ingram repeatedly there came one important thing—a lesson in democracy; a plea for overruled defense attorneys, sometimes before they opened their all races to live together in one world.

Attorney Looby shocked the court and white onlookers by demanding that Bumpus treat Negroes with respect and stop referring to colored women as "n—r women." Last Thursday, Negro-bating Lynn Bonnar, husky commissioner of safety and boss of the highway patrol, who led the raid on Mink Slide the night of the riot, cursed Vincent Sheean, white feature writer and author, during a courtroom recess. Sheean had written an article criticizing Bonnar and said it looked as though Julius Blair was getting more rest than Bonnar . . . A white civilian joined the argument, and for a while, spectators feared the bomb was going to burst . . . Friday, two white photographers were beaten by highway patrolmen outside the courtroom. But, out of the explosions and sensations produced by the trial, there came one important thing—a lesson in democracy; a plea for overruled defense attorneys, sometimes before they opened their all races to live together in one world.



Each defense attorney took turns in pounding this thought into the minds of the jurors. Opening the arguments for the defense, Attorney Ransom declared that the State "is holding up these defendants because they had received word that a white mob was forming in places . . . If you believe in lynchings, you ought to convict these men, but if you do not believe in lynchings, there is only one verdict—acquittal."

## Assailed State

The second defense argument to the jury was delivered by Attorney Weaver, a white lawyer from Chattanooga. "The State is calling upon you to carry out a lynching that failed," he said. "The State is trying to have you make this a legal lynching . . . The mob failed in Columbia on the night of Feb. 25, but now the State is asking the jury to take up the cudgel and carry out that lynching by its presentation of warped and distorted evidence . . . We escaped the injustices and tyrannies of a super race which would subject all people to fascism. The State's theory also reminds me of Lidice in Norway."

"The only reason they want a conviction is to bend Negroes to their will," declared the NAACP attorney. "They want to prove that with your cooperation they can make an example of innocent men."

Forced to remain seated while delivering his argument, because of an ailing right leg, Attorney Looby said: "This trouble is due to ignorance and inefficiency of the public officials . . . If the officers kept the white people from going to Mink Slide we wouldn't be here today . . . The officers of Maury County are the ones who should be on trial . . . We have learned to conquer everything but ourselves—and that is the great tragedy . . . The whole problem is that we've got to learn together . . . We are living in one world . . . All of us have to live and work with each other, and the sooner we learn it the better."

## Bumpus Roars

"We've got to learn that the differences of color and races do not matter," the brilliant NAACP attorney said. "And, we might as well start right here in this court . . . We've got to begin practicing real world democracy . . . The mantle of leadership has fallen on the United States, but how can we go to the United Nations and demand democracy when we don't practice it ourselves? . . . If we recognized the fundamentals of democracy and the teachings of Jesus Christ, this wouldn't have happened."

A bitter district attorney general closed the argument for the State. He referred to Attorney Looby as a "learned doctor" and to his argument as a "sermon." He turned his wrath on Northern newspaper reporters who, he said, were writing inflammatory stories about the trial. "They are all dirty rats," he yelled.

Bumpus said the "Negras" in Mink Slide were mad because the Stephensons were in jail and the white boy wasn't . . . "They dared white people to come into Mink Slide," he thundered.

He compared Negroes in Mink Slide to Nazis, declaring that they wanted to destroy human life. Holding up Bomar as some kind of a god, Bumpus said: "If it hadn't been for Mr. Bomar, every white man's life in Tennessee would have been jeopardized the night of the riot."

## Judge's Charge Lasted Two Hours

He even asked a little sympathy for himself, saying that "I have been abused in this case more so than in any other case I have tried." He then said he believed in protecting all people, whether white or colored. Softening up for a moment, he said "Southern people have always gotten along with colored people . . . There never would be any trouble if these outside carpet-baggers would stay at home."

"The rabble-rousers had a field day the day after the riot in Mink Slide," the Attorney General declared.

He accused Negroes in Mink Slide of trying to lynch policemen and then suggested that the defendants ought to be hanged.

The jury began deliberating at 3:05 P. M. The judge's charge lasted two hours. The defense asked for a correction in this charge, saying some of its theory had been deleted after reaching the hands of the judge. This was granted.

## Fans Wrote Judge

It was revealed late Friday afternoon that both Judge Ingram and Commissioner of Safety Bomar had received numerous "fan letters" from citizens from all over the country. Most letters criticized the court and insinuated that the defendants were not receiving a fair trial.

Gentry and McKivens were implicated by the testimony of two State witnesses, 19-year-old Mamie Lee Fisher, and Alexander Bullock. The girl had testified that she was in an automobile with Gentry and McKivens following the race riot in Columbia, Tenn., last Feb. 25, and that she heard them say: "We've just shot some officers." The girl later changed her testimony under cross-examination by the defense.

The sentence carries the maximum penalty of not more than twenty-one years and not less than three years in the State penitentiary.

## Two Theories Reviewed

The theory of each side was read by the judge in his charge to the jury. The defense contended that the State had failed to prove that the men listed in the second count of the indictment were in

Mink Slide the night of the shooting. The defense also pointed out that Negroes in Columbia had a reason to be afraid the night of the riot because they had received word that a white mob was forming in the town. The riot was the outgrowth of a fight in downtown Columbia in which Mrs. Gladys Stephenson and her son, James, were attacked by a white radio repairman. James was spirited from town after bond had been posted for him. It was shown in the testimony that a mob did go the jail "to get" the Stephensons.

The State's theory was this: Julius Blair and James Morton were influential leaders in colored Mink Slide; were rulers, and the type of people that would organize a mob of colored people to shoot whites. The State contended Mink Slide was fully lighted and that persons who fired on the officers should have been able to recognize them.

## Other Defendants to Face Trials

After all testimony was in, the State agreed to drop the names of Saul Blair, Meade Johnson and James Thomas Bellanfant from the first count of the indictment, which charged accessory before the fact. The jury considered only Julius Blair and James Morton on this count, and both were found not guilty.

Those freed on the second count were: Bellanfant, Meade Johnson, William Bills, Sol Blair, Clarence Brown, William Dawson, C. Clifford Edwards, Luther Edwards, Horace Gordon, Milton Johnson, Cal Lockridge, Raymond Lockridge, Webster Matthews, Lewis Miles Jr., Paul Miles, Willie Pigg, Early Scott, Charley Smith, Napoleon Stewart and Gene Williams.

Several other trials growing out of the riot are still on docket. Judge Ingram set the trial of William A. Pillow and Lloyd Kennedy for Nov. 11. The two men are indicted jointly for shooting an officer in Mink Slide the night of the racial disturbance.

Other cases to follow are those of James Stephenson, assault with intent to murder; his mother, Mrs. Gladys Stephenson, assault with intent to murder; John Blacknell, assault with intent to murder; James Morton, accessory after the fact, and a number of others charged with carrying concealed weapons.

*Jennings Perry*  
*PM New York, N.Y.*  
**So Shineth**  
*Tues. 10-15-46*  
I went down, the other day, and slide.

Even if the patrol hadn't come." He was an insurance man, he said. Another sitting there was a farmer. The other was a deputy sheriff. None of them was bitter about the recent verdict of the trial jury in neighboring Lawrence County that freed 23 of the Columbia Negroes charged with attempted murder. All agreed the worst thing about the whole "mess" was the "outside interference," all that publicity put on us here.

In this, of course, they were wrong. I like to believe that the 12 white men of the Lawrence County jury would have brought in as fair a verdict if the case had never been heard of outside of Tennessee. Lawrence County has a strong salting of German Catholic stock, settlers who came in after reconstruction days. Good farmers and independent men. Lawrence did not want the trial: it sent word to Maury to wash its own dirty linen." I like to think the Columbia Negroes would have found justice even-handed in Lawrence under those circumstances alone.

But this is true: that if it had not been for "outside interference" (the legal assistance furnished the de-



Perry

## Man To Man

By Harold L. Ickes  
*The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.*  
*Sun. 10-20-46*  
Tennessee's Commissioner Of

## Public Safety Violated Constitution

An attempt has been made to create the impression that "approximate justice" was done when 23 of the 25 Negro defendants in the Columbia, Tenn., race disorders were acquitted. The bare facts might seem to warrant such a conclusion. But it will not stand careful analysis. Four police officers were shot in the Negro section of Columbia. Obviously someone shot them. But to adjudge all 25 of the defendants guilty would have been ridiculous. It was more persuasive to convict only two. But that is only a superficial way of look-





# MAURICE WEAVER—A FEARLESS DEFENDER

*The Defender Chicago, Ill.*

The courageous performance of Maurice Weaver, young white defense lawyer at the Columbia Tennessee trial, was as gratifying as the acquittal of the 25 defendants. Mr. Weaver brought a new concept of the manner in which Southern white attorneys should handle the defense of their Negro clients. The defense of the 25 defendants. Mr. Weaver brought a new concept of the manner in which Southern white attorneys should handle the defense of their Negro clients.

In close collaboration with the able Negro members of the defense council, the white lawyer from Chattanooga broke all of the "white supremacy" codes in fighting for justice. This utter disregard for accepted Southern practices has earned the everlasting contempt of Southern die-hards toward this "renegade" attorney.

The "mine run" of white lawyers who often defend Negroes in the South, have a very condescending attitude toward their clients. At no time do they display, by any act, that the Negro defendant is to be treated as an equal during court proceedings, nor that he should receive justice comparable to that granted white defendants.

Attorney Weaver, to the chagrin of the court personnel and the onlookers, used the word "Mr." and "Mrs." when addressing the Negro witnesses. This practice is, of course, strictly taboo according to Southern customs. You may call a colored person, professor, reverend, doctor or any such title. But use the word mister? Never.

Aside from the deliberate courtesy shown to all Negro defendants, Mr. Weaver further infuriated the Southern gentry by his tenacious demands that all contributing causes to the conflict be brought into the case. On most of these altercations with the prosecutors and the judge, both steeped in Southern philosophy, the young attorney was thwarted. However, he never relented in his efforts to needle all concerned on their prejudices and the unfair manner in which the trial was conducted. In short, the defendants were given as good a presentation of their case as was possible under the antagonism of the surrounding community and the biased conduct of the judge.

Equally as important is the knowledge that 12 jurymen could return such an outstanding verdict when the majority of people expected mass conviction. The verdict is a tribute to Southern progress in racial justice. Not only was racial prejudice involved but

sectional bias was also injected into the trial. An acquittal to many would mean surrendering to "outside meddlers." Regardless of the pressure felt, the jurymen came through with commendable justice.

A new pattern has been set for Southern trials. Time will tell whether it influences other sections toward equal justice before the bar, or whether the fair treatment meted out here will intensify further discrimination and hatred in other backward sections of the South.

It is generally thought that Mr. Weaver would be ridiculed and "punished" by the community. Instead he has earned the respect of an impressive number of substantial white citizens who were at first highly critical of him. His action should encourage the well meaning, but more timid, lawyers to exercise their fullest concern in defending all citizens regardless of race, color or the retaliation of an undemocratic community.

*Tennessee Educates a Man*  
*The News and Courier, Charleston, S.C.*  
A white man for the North, Vincent Sheean, "covered" the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., trial of 25 negroes held after a disturbance at Columbia, Tenn. Mr. Sheean went to the trial for The New York Herald Tribune in order to report a shameful miscarriage of justice. Could there be any other reason for a novelist and world-traveler to honor this remote village with his august presence?

Mr. Sheean is an educated, intelligent man, who has seen much of the world. His article in The Herald Tribune assaying the trial indicates that he had preconceived notions founded in the same sort of misinformation that spawned "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

The third paragraph of a wondering dissertation on the just opinions of "12 good men and true" in the jury box began thus: "But hitherto it had been generally assumed that these 25 men would be condemned indiscriminately, that they would receive maximum sentences and that this case would have to be carried all the way to the supreme court of the United States."

For Mr. Sheean it was a soul-stirring experience. He learned something from Tennessee. The trial "makes us realize the full splendor of our destiny as a nation".

After making out Attorney General Bumpus as a naughty rabble-rouser, Mr. Sheean searched himself and found "the one thing I felt perfectly valid in Mr. Bumpus's thesis was the idea that lay beneath all the vituperation, to wit: that this is primarily a Southern problem and the intrusion of any element from the other parts of our society is likely to be resented. . . ."

Two of the defendants were found guilty on evidence, which Mr. Sheean agrees had some worth. The other 23 were freed, curi-

ously enough, because the testimony did not support the charges.

Justice in the South? Remarkable, Mr. Gallagher? Absolutely, Mr. Sheean!

## Southern Justice Is Not Color Blind

*Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.*

A VERDICT in which the South can take pride was reached at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., when 23 of the 25 Negroes on trial there for the attempted murder of a policeman were acquitted. The other two received up to 21 years in the penitentiary.

In the words of the New York Times, the result is "heartening evidence that Negroes in the upper South can still expect approximate justice from an all-white jury. . . . Southern justice has met its test in difficult surroundings."

A determined effort was made in certain Northern quarters to paint the milieu of the Tennessee trial, which grew out of the interracial clash at Columbia, Tenn., last February, as bigoted and Bilboesque. VINCENT SHEEAN, a well-known correspondent and author, described the trial for a syndicate, calling it "A Present-Day American Tragedy" and comparing Columbia, Tenn., to Lidice, the little Czechoslovakian village which the Nazis wiped out with fire and sword because they suspected somebody there of complicity in the assassination of a notorious SS officer.

The Tennessee judge was uncouth, according to SHEEAN, as well as unfair, and the whole atmosphere was that of a legal lynching. Nothing seems to have been heard from MR. SHEEAN since the verdict was rendered, and all but two of the 25 defendants were acquitted.

This is not to say that Tennessee justice emerges unscathed from the trial through which it passed in the Columbia affair. The lurid accounts of that interracial clash which were circulated by professional agitators were grossly exaggerated, but the hard facts are sufficiently damning. When a race riot threatened in Columbia the night of February 25, following an altercation between one white and two Negroes over a radio repair job, the town police were fired on in the darkness by Negroes, four being wounded. State patrolmen and guardsmen were sent immediately to the scene, and the Negro business section was raided at dawn, with wholesale brutality, looting and destruction by State patrolmen and white hangers on. Four whites were taken into custody on trivial charges, but 25 Negroes were indicted for attempted murder.

There should have been numerous arrests of whites, including some of the patrolmen who so abused their authority, and the fact that nothing of the sort was done is inexcusable. At the same time, the fact that the jury at Lawrenceburg, where the trial was held, refused to convict 23 of the 25 defendants of any misconduct at all is an admirable answer to the tirades of professional agitators.

These tirades are in the same category with those which were loosed in Washington late last month when a "National Conference on Lynching" met with a view to putting pressure on PRESIDENT TRUMAN for action. This conference declared that there have been 41 lynchings since the war ended.

Tuskegee Institute, which is considered the official compiler of lynching statistics—as is evidenced by the fact that its figures are published regularly in the *World Almanac*—gives the number of lynchings since the war ended as seven. One of these took place in 1945, and the other six, including the horrible quadruple lynching in Georgia last July, during the current year. In other words, the Washington conclave exaggerated the lynching totals more than five times.

It is this sort of thing which the South, for all its shortcomings, has to combat in its efforts to cope with the terribly complex race problem. Zealots from other regions, and some from the South, many of them sincere, persist in misrepresenting our situation and picturing it as much worse than it is. It seems to be our lot to serve as a national whipping boy. In the verdict at Lawrenceburg we have proved, as our Northern critics are reluctantly conceding, that justice in the South is not color blind.

*The Race Riot Decision Criticized*  
*The Times, New York, N.Y.*  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

As a Southerner, I am unhappy to note that your editorial of Oct. 6, "Southern Justice Stands Up," praises the Columbia, Tenn., race riot decision on the basis that "Negroes in the upper South can still expect approximate justice from an all-white jury."

Those of us who have studied the race tensions in the South realize that real democracy will not come to that section of the country over night. Yet this does not mean that we can let up one whit in our efforts to hasten that day, or in the meanwhile condone decisions such as this one and praise "approximate justice."

Twenty-five Negroes were tried by an all-white jury for a crime that unbiased observers have laid at the doorstep of the white local officials. Are we to be happy that twenty-three innocent men were declared innocent and only two innocent men sent to jail?

Can we be proud of a trial which was, in the words of your editorial, conducted in a "calculated atmosphere of Bilboism"? Does Southern justice place the victims—the Negroes—and is unwilling to place in similar jeopardy the aggressors—in this case members of the white community?

both whites and Negroes shared the blame, it can hardly be expanded into a cause to stir up further prejudice. The trial at Lawrenceburg, to which further their own ends of a well-organized change of venue had removed it fromized scheme to uproot our Government. Submitting flamboyant flap near-by Columbia, was not reassuring. The prosecution conducted its case in doodle of that sort as a substitute for a calculated atmosphere of Bilboism, weighted evidence affronts the intelligence. Its predominant appeal to local prejudice may be judged by the closing argument of Attorney General Paul Bumpus, in which

both whites and Negroes shared the blame, it can hardly be expanded into a cause to stir up further prejudice. The trial at Lawrenceburg, to which further their own ends of a well-organized change of venue had removed it fromized scheme to uproot our Government. Submitting flamboyant flap near-by Columbia, was not reassuring. The prosecution conducted its case in doodle of that sort as a substitute for a calculated atmosphere of Bilboism, weighted evidence affronts the intelligence. Its predominant appeal to local prejudice may be judged by the closing argument of Attorney General Paul Bumpus, in which

both whites and Negroes shared the blame, it can hardly be expanded into a cause to stir up further prejudice. The trial at Lawrenceburg, to which further their own ends of a well-organized change of venue had removed it fromized scheme to uproot our Government. Submitting flamboyant flap near-by Columbia, was not reassuring. The prosecution conducted its case in doodle of that sort as a substitute for a calculated atmosphere of Bilboism, weighted evidence affronts the intelligence. Its predominant appeal to local prejudice may be judged by the closing argument of Attorney General Paul Bumpus, in which

both whites and Negroes shared the blame, it can hardly be expanded into a cause to stir up further prejudice. The trial at Lawrenceburg, to which further their own ends of a well-organized change of venue had removed it fromized scheme to uproot our Government. Submitting flamboyant flap near-by Columbia, was not reassuring. The prosecution conducted its case in doodle of that sort as a substitute for a calculated atmosphere of Bilboism, weighted evidence affronts the intelligence. Its predominant appeal to local prejudice may be judged by the closing argument of Attorney General Paul Bumpus, in which



sprang. But the jury was hardheaded enough to realize that they were trying twenty-five Negro citizens for a crime for which the overwhelming majority of them were patently not responsible. The obvious duty of clearing them was manfully faced.

The Columbia riots cast an ominous doubt on the ability of Southern whites and Negroes to live peaceably together in the period of readjustment which must take place during the return of Negro veterans to their homes. The fires lighted there have been stamped back to embers and should send no flying sparks to other towns. Southern justice has met its test in difficult surroundings. 10-6-46

## Attorney Warns Against Excess Jubilation Juls. 10-15-46 Convicted Men Separated From Others Technically

NEW YORK—As congratulatory messages continued pouring into NAACP offices in New York's Freedom House over the unprecedented and historic Lawrenceburg, Tenn., trials which acquitted 23 out of 25 Negroes indicted on charges of attempted murder, defense counsel, Looby Weaver and Ransom formulated plans in preparation for further court action growing out of the infamous so-called Columbia "riot" of last February 25.

Dr. Leon Ransom, former Dean of the Howard University Law School, discussing further N. A. A. C. P. plans in connection with indictments still pending against the Negro defendants stated, "I'm a bit concerned over expressions of indignation over the Lawrenceburg verdict. I'm afraid that many people are of the opinion that this case is finished and nothing could be farther from the truth. There are still two Negro defendants to be tried under the same indictment. They are William Pillow and Lloyd Kennedy and they're charged with attempt to commit murder in the first degree. They were separated from the main body of defendants through a technicality. In addition to this pending action all of the men acquitted in Lawrenceburg must stand trial again on other indictments, one of them being assault with attempt to kill. The penalty for this is exactly the same as on the first indictment. We al-

so intend to appeal the conviction of Gentry and McKibben, the two youths, both veterans, who were found guilty in Lawrenceburg. At least seven funerals around the country this week.

### NO REJOICING CAUSE

Oliver Harrington, NAACP Public Relations Counsel who sat as an observer during the major portion of the trial in Lawrenceburg, speaking in New York expressed concern over some public and press reaction to the Lawrenceburg decision. "Although the decision acquitting 23 of the 25 innocent Negroes was a momentous one there is no cause for rejoicing over a new and democratic South," declared Mr. Harrington. "Editorials in many fairly liberal newspapers express complete satisfaction over the trial and the decision. They even imply that the south can handle its own problems if left alone. Nothing is farther from the truth. These innocent men were acquitted after the southern court discovered that Americans in other parts of the country simply demanded justice. The appearance of a host of correspondents from both the Negro and white press in the court room drove this fact home to the court. Furthermore, if the Columbia defendants were innocent of the state's charges then the state is guilty of having allowed Lynn Bomar's troopers to beat and even kill innocent citizens thus depriving them of their civil rights. There has been no mention made of this fact in the editorials I've read.

G. M. Baldwin, Executive Vice-Chairman of CIO-PAC in a letter will be AWOL from his desk this week. "Those of us who have studied Maurice Weaver, white Chattanooga NAACP lawyer, worked himself from a slip of a man to realize that real democracy will not come to that section of the country over night. Yet this does not mean that we can let up one whit in our efforts to hasten that day, or in the meanwhile condone decisions such as this one and praise 'approximate justice'." Does and S. of G. C. P. J. E. Sanders Southern justice meet its test when it places on trial the victims—the Negroes—and is unwilling to place in similar jeopardy the aggressors in this case members of the white community?"

## the week The Afro-American Unsung Casualties Baltimore, Md. at Lawrenceburg

By VINCENT TUBBS  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Mink Slide decision rendered by a Lawrence County jury that looked like anything but a group of men who would free 23 of 25 colored men for daring to defy a lynch mob,

As the matter now stands, there are two ailing lawyers, three badly worn newspapermen and three other fit subjects for a long-term stint in a rest camp.

Z. Alexander Looby is confined to his home with an arthritic leg done up in a cast, a result of the long, hard grind of the trial.

Dr. Leon A. Ransom is expected to survive an energy-sapping stomach ailment only because his wife, Willa, flew to his rescue with a Sterno stove on which she could prepare hot soup in the courtroom during the final days of the legal battle. Sat. 10-12-46

Three of five newsmen, who have covered every kind of story from the Scottsboro case to the war under the world's most trying conditions, came off at trial's end with plans to take sick leave in an effort to recuperate from the trying circumstances under which they had to work for two hectic weeks.

Albert Hinton of Norfolk, Va., covered the Scottsboro case, less than 100 miles from the Lawrenceburg courthouse where justice was to be done last week in spite of Tennessee prosecutors.

### Worse Than Scottsboro

"Scottsboro was never like this," he and Robert Radcliffe of Pittsburgh agreed.

Enoc Waters of Chicago, who covered the war in the Pacific, said he would prefer doing another invasion of the Philippines to another trial in Tennessee.

He experience notwithstanding, had a fairly tough time of setting down notes on every word of testimony.

What is more, like the lawyers who spent long hours in conference on the next day's strategy, the real work began after the day's proceedings were finished. There was the story to write and file.

Day after day, the long journey the tense courtroom, the legal arguments festooned with unpleasantness, annoyance, misunderstanding and ill feeling wore deeper and deeper into the physical and mental endurance of defendants, counsel and newsmen alike.

Lawrenceburg, scene of the hearings, is 77 miles from Nashville where we had to live because the trial town simply does not afford accommodations for "foreigners."

Each day at 6 a.m., we crawled reluctantly from our beds and scurried about catching breakfast on the fly, filling gas tanks, checking tires and then hurtling down the highway at 70 miles per hour to the dingy, dirty, spittoon-decorated courtroom.

For a time Hinton and I rode with Mr. Looby but because of some Barney Oldfield strain in his personality that provoked him to drive 80 to 85 miles per hour, we decided to charter our own transportation as soon as enough colleagues were on hand to share the cost.

The strain of sitting in a super-

charged courtroom all day, listening to the world's most outlandish violations of jurisprudence was enough, we agreed, without having to worry about being "meatballed" on the highway to and from the trial.

### The Fall Guy

It fell my lot to do the driving so there I was watching the highway while "the competition" slept the 154 miles away each day. Fate can be unkind sometimes.

The food situation was another problem.

If you could swallow your pride there was a table under the dish-cloth line in the back of the bus station where you could get a hot meal . . . but, of course, people like us fighting such segregation and discrimination didn't dare stoop to this.

We cast our lot with the defendants and pilfered a few chicken legs, a spot of potato salad and a slice of pie from the sumptuous lunches the good people of Columbia prepared for them.

There was no other way to get any food and, lo! one dared not so fill himself as to provoke a call of nature, for there was simply nothing he could do about it.

The only sanitary facilities available to colored in the town are beneath the courthouse where some indications of its condition can be garnered from the sign on the wall which reads "\$10 fine for standing on the seat or messing on the floor."

It may have sounded easy to you folk sitting in your soft easy chairs reading precise accounts of the trial's progress, but the newsmen, He experience notwithstanding, had a fairly tough time of setting down notes on every word of testimony.

What is more, like the lawyers who spent long hours in conference on the next day's strategy, the real work began after the day's proceedings were finished. There was the story to write and file.

Day after day, the long journey the tense courtroom, the legal arguments festooned with unpleasantness, annoyance, misunderstanding and ill feeling wore deeper and deeper into the physical and mental endurance of defendants, counsel and newsmen alike.

### Verdicts Surprise

But even at that, the verdicts, buoying very low spirits, came as something of a surprise. The most optimistic observers had set their hopes on a hung jury; then when acquittals for 23 came and 21 years' imprisonment was recommended for two others, it was hard to determine just how one felt.

Robert Gentry and John McKibben are just as innocent of shooting Officer Wilsford as anyone else. They were quoted as having said they were "down there" when the shooting was going on and the little female Judas who testified this, also said they had

pistols on the fateful night. Tottering old man Wilsford was peppered with birdshot from a shotgun. Gentry and McKibben couldn't have peppered him with pistols. We all felt that they, too, should have been acquitted.

NAACP attorneys immediately informed the court that they will seek new trials for them and were given until Oct. 18 to file such a motion. The case will be carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if such is necessary to clear the youths, it was asserted.

It is noteworthy, in connection with all the other queer and distracting things that occurred in Lawrenceburg, that Gentry and McKibben left the town with other freedmen just as if nothing had happened.

Normally, persons convicted in such instances are taken into custody by court officers, their old bond returned to the bondsman and a new one made pending the outcome of the appeal but, then, nothing was normal about the trial.

Nobody connected with it is normal. It may take weeks, months or even years for them to get back to normal.

## 2 Found Guilty The Afro-American in Tenn. Riot

Baltimore, Md.  
Convicted of Shooting

Cop With Shotgun

Officials by Surprise  
HAD PISTOLS  
Sat. 10-12-46

Verdict Takes State

By VINCENT TUBBS  
AFRO Staff Correspondent

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn.

—An all-white, all-male jury of Lawrence County farmers who sat bored and expressionless through 14 days of testimony and spent their nights locked in the local jail took just two hours Friday to set free 23 of 25 defendants tried here for complicity in the Columbia riot of last February.

Convicted from among 24 persons charged with assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree were Robert Gentry, 24, and John McKibben, 26.

Only the most far-fetched testimony connected them with the actual shotgun wounding of Officer Will Wilsford, for which all were tried. NAACP counsel immediately informed the court that motions for a new trial would be filed and was given until Oct. 18 to do so.

Quoted by Frightened Girl

A frightened little Lewisburg girl, Miss Mamie Fisher, had told made the statement, the girl said of gunplay in Mink Slide on Feb. 25, were acquitted on this count. Dawson, Clifford Edwards, Luther marked by tenseness and an al-

most solemn quiet which fell over the defendants' box while Judge

Mat. Joe M. Ingram delivered a tedious

two-hour charge to the jury before

it began its deliberations.

Gene Williams and the Revs. Calvin and

Stewart, Napoleon Smith, Willie Pigg, Early Scott, Charles it

thought some policemen were hit,

think some policemen were hit,

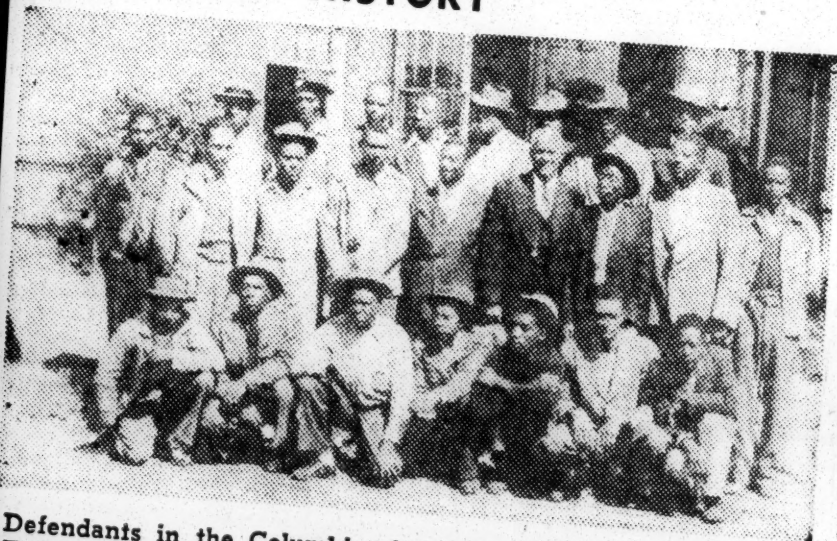


# Columbia Trial Jury Stuns Nation With Acquittals; Two Convicted

By ENOC P. WATERS Jr.  
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn.—A Jury of 12 white Southerners, finally disgusted with the unveiled disregard of rights in a court of justice and aware from a flood of pop-

## THEY MADE HISTORY



Defendants in the Columbia riot trials, held at Lawrenceburg, Tenn., shown here were all acquitted, except two, marking a new era in the profound effect of mobilized public opinion and a trial where jurors were, at best, of dubious impartiality, and the judge gave proceedings a Star Chamber atmosphere, with racial bias holding the lead position to the very end.

ular protests that a mass conviction would forever blemish their county, state and country, this week freed 28 of 25 Columbia riot defendants in a trial not to make a demonstration, which since its beginning has reeked with race hate and hostility.

Judge Joe M. Ingram sat stunned after the jury had read its verdict. He and District Attorney General Paul F. Bumpus had led the state's attack against the 25 Negro victims. The jury retired to consider a verdict at 3:05 p.m., Friday after listening to a two hour and 10 minute charge by the judge. At 4:15 p.m., the jury asked a court attache for water. At 4:45 p.m., the jurors requested a pen, the first indication that the men were nearing a verdict. At 5:05 p.m., the jury announced that it had reached a verdict. When court was assembled the judge sat speechless after the verdict was handed him by Jury Foreman Herbert Patterson. The jury's action was received with visible approval by the large number of white spectators present and with restrained exultation by the defendants, who previously had been cautioned by their attorneys

Morton, leading Columbia undertaker.

Similar charges against Saul Blair, Meade Johnson, and James T. "Popeye" Bellafant, a war veteran, were dropped by the state Wednesday.

### Names Of Acquitted

Cleared of the attempted murder of Will Willsford, Columbia policeman, who with three of his colleagues was fired upon the night of Feb. 25 as he entered Mink Slide, Negro business district in Columbia, to investigate shots, were the following:

James T. "Popeye" Bellafant, William "Moot" Bills Jr., Saul Blair, barber and son of Julius Blair, Clarence Brown, William Dason, C. Clifford Edwards, Horace Gordon, Meade Johnson, Milton "Toady" Johnson, Rev. Calvin Lockridge, Rev. Raymond Lockridge, John Lockridge, Webster Matthews, Lewis "Junior" Miles Jr., Paul Miles, Willie Pigg, Early Scott, Charley Smith, Napoleon Stewart and Eugene Williams.

A similar charge against Morton was withdrawn by the state Wednesday, and no conviction of Tommy Baxter, indicted on the same charge, was sought. Baxter died before the trial as a result of a cold he contracted while in jail.

The trial dates back to May 28 when defense attorneys sought to have the indictments squashed in Columbia. On a change of venue the trial was moved to Lawrence County July 2 over strong local protests and selection of the jury began Aug. 15.

The first witness took the stand Sept. 19, and final arguments began Wednesday of last week.

### Trial Marked By Hostility

The course of the trial was marked by open hostility on the part of Circuit Judge Joe M. Ingram, who presided, and the prosecution, headed by District Attorney General Paul F. Bumpus.

There were repeated bitter clashes between the defense attorneys, Dr. Leon A. Ransom, former assistant law dean at Howard University; Maurice Weaver, white, of Chattanooga and Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville and the prosecution, in which, sometimes, the court itself became involved.

The prejudicial attitude of the judge was demonstrated through his suppression of defense evidence, his choking off of testimony damaging to the state and his frequent overruling of defense objections to the tactics of the prosecution. *Sat. 10-12-46*

In his two hour and 10 minute charge to the jury, Friday, Judge

Ingram distorted the theory of defense to the extent of jeopardizing the defendants, Looby charged before the jury retired.

### Jury Favored Defendants

It is felt that the jury was largely influenced in favor of the defendants by the extreme partisanship of the judge and the evident determination of the prosecution to secure a conviction in spite of the testimony.

There is, of course, widespread belief that the state failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt, but it is thought the prosecution was depending heavily upon the racial prejudices of the jury.

In the final plea, Bumpus, in a speech laden with inflammatory remarks, tried to support the preposterous theory that the defendants had organized a mob to lynch Willsford.

The jury's verdict seems to be incontrovertible evidence that the flagrant disregard of Negro rights in a court of justice and obvious legal persecution is offensive even to the average white southerner.

The unconcealed contempt of the judge and Bumpus for Weaver, because he, a white southerner, was defending Negroes charged with the attempted murder of a white man is believed to have won the sympathy of the jury for the defendants.

Though ordinarily immobile, the jury's reaction to such incidents as Bumpus' invitation to Weaver to step outside and fight and to the belligerence of Commissioner of Safety Lynn Bomar was evident.

### County Resented Trial

There is, too, another factor. The Lawrence County jury resented having to wash the dirty linen of Maury County, and the verdict might be interpreted as an admonition to Columbia to settle its own racial problems.

Unquestionably, Weaver's suggestion that the jury had been called upon to carry out in the courtroom a lynching that failed in Columbia, had its effect.

Neither can the calm, dispassionate plea of Looby be ignored. Suffering from arthritis, he sat at the counsel table, his leg resting on several pillows, and talked, rather than orated to the jury.

Interwoven with his analytical destruction of the state's case, were frequent Biblical references about the brotherhood of man.

So impressive was his argument that Bumpus who was not scheduled to address the jury until next day, asked the court to speak immediately.

He began with a series of sarcastic references to Looby's plea for brotherhood which must have struck the jury as being blasphemous.

### Blair Was Asset

Another strong defense asset was Julius Blair, a soberly dressed man of quiet patriarchal dignity, whose manner and appearance were at such variance with the prosecution's description of him as to cast doubt upon the state's charges.

The jury was a complete surprise, its discernment being infinitely greater than many suspected. Certainly the prosecution and the court that is only a superficial way of looking at

did not contemplate that the jurors would be able to penetrate the smokescreen of prejudice and hostility and dispassionately examine the merits of the facts and testimony presented.

While none of the jurors seemed to have any particular fondness for Negroes, they apparently did not want to be identified with an obvious unjust persecution.

The charges on which the men were tried grew out of a fight between James Stephenson and Billy Fleming, white, who is accused of abusing Stephenson's mother.

The Stephensons were arrested and as reports of the fight spread, rumors of a lynching were circulated. Julius Blair and James Morton secured the release of the Stephensons on heavy bond and spirited the youth out of town when lynch rumors persisted.

When a white mob, bristling with arms, began to assemble on the courthouse square, Negroes anticipating an invasion of the East Eighth st., Negro business section, known as Mink Slide, secured arms and prepared to protect themselves and their property.

Invading the Negro area, reportedly to investigate a shooting, four white police officers were shot and the darkened street, and a reign of terror ensued.

Mink Slide was reduced to a shambles by machine gun fire, vandalism and looting by state highway police and state guards. Every Negro home in the city was searched and all weapons confiscated.

More than a hundred Negroes were taken into custody, and two of them killed in jail. A third died as result of a cold he contracted while incarcerated.

The two Blairs, Morton, Johnson and Bellafant were later indicted and charged with planning and organizing the attack upon the officers and the rest were charged with attempted murder.

The state admitted its inability of placing any of the defendants on the scene of the shooting at the time it occurred, and was unable to identify a single weapon as the property of any of the men on trial.

As a result of the same incident, three of the men acquitted Friday must face trial again along with six other persons including Mrs. Stephenson and her son, James.

Though the state says it has indicted four whites in connection with the pogrom, defense attorneys have been unable to discover the indictments.

### Man to Man

AN ATTEMPT has been made to create the impression that "approximate justice" was done when 23 of the 25 Negro defendants in the Columbia, Tenn., race disorders were acquitted.

The bare facts might seem to warrant such a conclusion. But it will not stand careful analysis. Four police officers were shot in the Negro section of Columbia. Obviously someone shot them. But to adjudge all 25 of the defendants guilty would have been ridiculous. It was

considered, throw a somewhat light on this appraisal of "approximate justice." In fact, "approximate justice" will not be done in Tennessee unless Lynn Bomar, the State Commissioner of Safety, is brought to justice.

Starting from a fight between a white shop keeper and a Negro woman and her sailor son, unrest spread through the

the next day in view of these facts, the title "commissioner of safety" seems to be something of a misnomer. Mr. Bomar, "commissioner of safety," testified in court that he not only had no search warrant when he broke into Negro homes and business houses last February, but—in his defiant words—"I probably won't have one next time, either." Still under oath, he testified further that he put his foot on the neck of Napoleon Stewart, one of the defendants in the Columbia riot, and told him, "I'm going to

the Negroes were beaten. Two were shot to death. In the jail, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.

THUS, in actuality, the Negroes thought Constitution. But in the jail, the Negroes were firing in self-defense. But there can be no such justification for the and intimidated.



kill you if you try to get up."

The outrage here is that not even "approximate justice" has been done to the Constitution of the United States. There exists today a Federal law called the Civil Rights Statute, which subjects to Federal punishment State, county and municipal authorities who wilfully deprive citizens of their constitutional rights. This statute was recently applied to Chief of Police Lynwood L. Shull, of Batesburg, S. C., who is under indictment as having tortured and blinded Isaac Woodard, a Negro veteran. This is a clear precedent.

#### COMMISSIONER OF SAFETY

LYNN BOMAR has testified, under oath, that he wilfully deprived citizens of their constitutional rights by indulging in intimidation and brutality in jail and by breaking into homes without warrant. He has defied the Constitution by announcing boldly that he intends to repeat such lawless actions.

Never has there been a more clear-cut and flagrant violation of civil rights. It is to be hoped that Attorney-General Clark will instruct the Department of Justice to arrest Lynn Bomar and the other officials responsible for the outrages against the Constitution which occurred at Columbia, Tenn. In view of his responsibility for the upholding of Federal law, Attorney-General Clark's duty is clearly marked. He is undoubtedly also familiar with the legal axiom that "justice delayed is justice denied."

Let us not be supine under this peculiar variety of lynching called "Southern justice." A Federal law has been violated and Federal justice is called for.

ALL BUT TWO OF THE TWENTY-FIVE NEGROES  
*The Nation New York, N. Y. Sat. 9-12-46*  
accused of attempted murder during the troubles at

Columbia, Tennessee, last February, have been acquitted. That verdict is a triumph for the defending lawyers who, in an atmosphere thick with prejudice, fought from beginning to end with skill and courage. But in some part it can be attributed to the way in which the case was covered in the national press. In particular the syndicated articles of Vincent Sheean exposed the way in which the defense was hampered by the rulings of the presiding judge and laid bare the social background of the Columbia "incident" which occurred when, following a dispute between a Negro and a white man, a white mob gathered in a lynching mood. That night the frightened colored citizens were on guard in Mink Slide, the business section of their quarter. Shots were fired on both sides and four policemen who approached the colored district in a darkened car were wounded. At dawn, State Commissioner of Safety, Lynn Bomar, who admitted at the trial that he had no search warrant, led a posse of highway patrolmen to Mink Slide and started a reign of terror. Stores were smashed and ransacked, money stolen, and 103 men and boys thrown into jail without charge. In the following week, all these prisoners were beaten and two killed "trying to escape." Twenty-five were then arbitrarily held for trial. In court, the prosecution could produce direct evidence against none; it proceeded, apparently, on the Himerian theory of "col-

lective guilt." It is satisfactory to know that a Tennessee jury has repudiated this theory. But even if the verdict against the two convicted men is set aside on appeal, as seems probable, it can hardly be said that justice has been served. For the man directly responsible for the deaths of two Negroes and wanton destruction of much property remains—Heaven help Tennessee!—Commissioner of Safety. *The Nation New York, N. Y.*

#### The Growth of Social Decency *The Black Dispatch Oklahoma City, Okla.*

Recent acquittal of 23 Negroes, charged with attempted murder, at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the most thrilling and exciting news that has bubbled up from the southern section of the United States in many moons. There has been much talk of liberalism and fair play emanating from Dixie, and when one sought to prove this he has previously pointed to Hugo Black, Claud Pepper and Ellis Arnall. Individual instances of fairness and justice have hitherto high-pointed all of the ground upon which one could stand in discussing this subject. Of course there are hundreds of other Southerners, whose names might be called in spelling out liberalism down in Dixie, but the three outstanding leaders mentioned above have been so outstanding in opposition to traditional southern patterns, their names bubbles to the lips of all when advanced thinking down in Dixie has been previously referred to. *Sat. 10-19-46*

Two weeks ago, Friday, a jury of twelve men, representing the mine-run of Southern thought, after listening for seven weeks to a savage, brutal assault upon 25 defenseless Negroes, guilty of nothing more than being black, decided to turn their backs upon the age-old conspiracy among white people to unmercifully inflict penalties upon blacks guilty of defending their lives and property, and set 23 black men free. In this simple act of justice the Black Dispatch feels this southern all-white jury did inestimably more for white people than it did for the defendant blacks. Integrity stalked back into a southern courtroom to supersede hypocrisy, when the jury found a verdict at Lawrenceburg.

The very essence and virtue in government becomes a nullity when hypocrisy and mischief enters the portals of the law, and nothing has done more damage to the democratic process than the unholy connivance down in Dixie to set aside constitutional processes, and introduce terrorism and intimidation as a means by which to maintain "white supremacy." We shed crocodile tears in the United States because of the way Hitler treated Jews in Germany, seemingly never recognizing that Hitler in his subjugation of Hebrews doubtless copied America's evil approach to the question of race.

We know now, since the jury returned its verdict at Lawrenceburg, that the conscience of the South has been awakened, that in the body politic of this section there has come longing for cleaner government and ideal human contact. There is no other answer to the surprising reaction of twelve men, tried and true, who listened to the traditional bombast and falsity regarding race, and who saw brazenly paraded for seven weeks before their eyes testimony proving it was sworn officers of the law who had violated their oaths of office in endeavor to force Negroes to accept second-class citizenship and remain passive under the lash of cruel oppression.

Now what were some of the evils this southern jury had to contemplate upon? First of all, in releasing 23 defendants there is admission that law enforcing agencies in and around Columbia, Tennessee, wilfully brought a mass felony charge against 23 innocent Negroes regarding whom

is touched, and down in Tennessee all white folk became alerted when one white man is touched by a black.

of the justifiable or aggravating circumstances.

And then that all-white jury observed Attorney General Bumpus seek to intimidate counsel for the defendants. They heard the exponent of fascism announce in open court, and without reproof from the court, that he would "wrap a chair around the head" of defendants' counsel. What sort of vile place has American injustice fashioned when in open court the fundamental right of citizens to be represented by an attorney is menaced in this way. Before their eyes was unfolded the brutal principle and savage philosophy that might makes right. Slowly the white Southerner is opening his eyes. Perhaps some of them have already observed attempt on the part of labor unions to enter their section and the withdrawal of constitutional process from those of the native population who have had the good common sense to join labor unions. Such bitter experiences are priming white Southerners to see clearly the plight of the black citizen.

At Lawrenceburg, standing out in bold relief, was the State of Tennessee persecuting innocent men at the behest of invisible government. The testimony was clear, and it was established by sworn testimony in open court, that unauthorized whites invaded the Negro district, burning and looting their homes; that there was nothing to support the arrest and criminal indictment of 23 Negro citizens other than that the unlawful invasion was repelled. It was brought out in a strikingly effective way that state enforcement officers down in the Volunteer state consider it a crime for a Negro to physically strike back at a white man, irrespective of a verdict of acquittal. *Sat. 10-19-46*



"All you if you try to get up."

Proximate justice" has been done to the Constitution of the United States. There exists today a Federal law called the Civil Rights Statute, which subjects to Federal punishment State, county and municipal authorities who willfully deprive citizens of their constitutional rights. This statute was recently applied to Chief of Police Lynwood L. Shull, of Batesburg, S. C., who is under indictment as having tortured and blinded Isaac Woodard, a Negro veteran. This is a clear precedent.

"COMMISSIONER OF SAFETY" LYNN BOMAR has testified, under oath, that he willfully deprived citizens of their constitutional rights by indulging in intimidation and brutality in jail and by breaking into homes without warrant. He has defied the Constitution by announcing boldly that he intends to repeat such lawless actions.

Never has there been a more clear-cut and flagrant violation of civil rights. It is to be hoped that the Department of Justice to arrest Lynn Bomar and the other officials responsible for the outrages against the Constitution which occurred at Columbia, Tenn. In view of Federal law, Attorney-General Clark's duty is clearly marked. He is undoubtedly also familiar with the legal axiom that "justice delayed is justice denied." Let us not be supine under this peculiar variety of lynching called "Southern justice." A Federal law has been violated and Federal justice is called for.

# ALL BUT TWO OF THE TWENTY-FIVE NEGROES

accused of attempted murder during the troubles at Columbia, Tennessee, last February, have been acquitted. That verdict is a triumph for the defending lawyers who, in an atmosphere thick with prejudice, fought from beginning to end with skill and courage. But in some part it can be attributed to the way in which the case was covered in the national press. In particular the syndicated articles of Vincent Sheean exposed the way in which the defense was hampered by the rulings of the presiding judge and laid bare the social background and intimidation as a means by which to maintain "white supremacy." We shed crocodile tears in the United States because of the way Hitler treated Jews in Germany, seemingly never recognizing that Hitler in his subjugation of the Hebrews doubtless copied America's evil approach to the frightened colored citizens were on guard in Mink Slide, the business section of their quarter. Shots were fired on both sides and four policemen who approached the colored district in a darkened car were wounded. At dawn, State Commissioner of Safety, Lynn Bomar, who admitted at the trial that he had no search warrant, led a posse of highway patrolmen to Mink Slide and started a reign of terror. Stores were smashed and ransacked, money stolen, and 103 men and boys thrown into jail without charge. In the following week, all these prisoners were beaten and two killed "trying to escape." Twenty-five were then arbitrarily held for trial. In court, the prosecution could produce direct evidence against none; it proceeded, apparently, on the Himerian theory of "col-

lective guilt." It is satisfactory to know that a Tennessee jury has repudiated this theory. But even if the verdict against the two convicted men is set aside on appeal, seems probable, it can hardly be said that justice has been served. For the man directly responsible for the deaths of two Negroes and wanton destruction of much property remains—Heaven help Tennessee!—Commissioner of Safety. The Nation New York, N.Y. \*

Recent acquittal of 23 Negroes, charged with attempted murder, at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the most thrilling and exciting news that has bubbled up from the southern section of the United States in many moons. There has been much talk of liberalism and fair play emanating from Dixie, and when one sought to prove this he has previously pointed to Hugo Black, Claud Pepper and Ellis Arnall. Individual instances of fairness and justice have hitherto high- pointed all of the ground upon which one could stand in discussing this subject. Of course there are hundreds of other Southerners, whose names might be called in spelling out liberalism down in Dixie, but the three outstanding leaders mentioned above have been so outstanding in opposition to traditional southern patterns, their names bubbles to the lips of all when advanced thinking down in Dixie has been previously referred to. Sat. 10-19-46

Now what were some of the evils this southern jury had to contemplate upon? First of all, in releasing 23 defendants there is admission that law enforcing agencies in and around Columbia, Tennessee, willfully brought a mass felony charge against 23 innocent Negroes regarding whom

there was not one scintilla of evidence. It proves conclusively that there was no integrity in the indictment. The state, upon which all citizens depend for peace, tranquility and happiness, at once becomes a monster, a Frankenstein from which citizens must flee, instead of therein finding succor and aid. Perhaps the attempt of government over at Athens, in the same state, to do to white citizens in Athens what it sought to do to blacks in Columbia, helped to re-orient the thinking of the Lawrenceburg jury. In the Athens picture there was opportunity to "see the shoe on the other foot," and it perhaps sobered the thinking of the jury, and cause it to see more clearly the ruinous effect of mischief when it enters the portals of government.

That white jury saw the state commissioner of public safety stalk into the courtroom and brazenly admit under oath that he had knowingly violated the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, without reproof from the presiding judge; they heard that same officer announce that he would continue to violate his oath when he said, "I'll not procure search warrants in the future when I plan to enter Negroes' homes." Lynn Bomar's attitude in smashing in the doors of black men's homes down in Tennessee is representative of the savage and unconstitutional approach to every black man's castle down in Dixie. Tennessee's all-white jury heard that testimony and rose above the conscience and social level of the presiding judge in finding a verdict of acquittal. Sat. 10-19-46

And then that all-white jury observed Attorney General Bumpus seek to intimidate counsel for the defendants. They heard the exponent of fascism announce in open court, and without reproof from the court, that he would "wrap a chair around the head" of defendants' counsel. What sort of vile place has American injustice fashioned when in open court the fundamental right of citizens to be represented by an attorney is menaced in this way. Before their eyes was unfolded the brutal principle and savage philosophy that might makes right. Slowly the white Southerner is opening his eyes. Perhaps some of them have already observed attempt on the part of labor unions to enter their section and the withdrawal of constitutional process from those of the native population who have had the good common sense to join labor unions. Such bitter experiences are priming white Southerners to see clearly the plight of the black citizen.

At Lawrenceburg, standing out in bold relief, was the State of Tennessee persecuting innocent men at the behest of invisible government. The testimony was clear, and it authorized whites invaded the Negro district, burning and looting their homes; that there was nothing to support the arrest and criminal indictment of 23 Negro citizens other than that the unlawful invasion was repelled. It was brought out in a strikingly effective way that state enforcement officers down in the Volunteer state consider it a crime for a Negro to physically strike back at a white man, irrespective

of aggravating or unjustifiable circumstances. A bee will sting when his hive is touched, and down in Tennessee all white folk became alerted when one white man is touched by a black.

That white jury saw the state commissioner of public safety stalk into the courtroom and brazenly admit under oath that he had knowingly violated the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, without reproof from the presiding judge; they heard that same officer announce that he would continue to violate his oath when he said, "I'll not procure search warrants in the future when I plan to enter Negroes' homes." Lynn Bomar's attitude in smashing in the doors of black men's homes down in Tennessee is representative of the savage and unconstitutional approach to every black man's castle down in Dixie. Tennessee's all-white jury heard that testimony and rose above the conscience and social level of the presiding judge in finding a verdict of acquittal. Sat. 10-19-46



**Denied New Trial****Riot Case to  
The Courier  
State Court  
Pittsburgh, Pa.**

COLUMBIA, Tenn. NAACP defense attorneys announced here last week that the case of Lloyd Kennedy, 21, convicted in the second Mink Slide riot trial, will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

The announcement was made after Circuit Court Judge Joe Ingram denied a motion for a new trial. A new bond of \$5,000 was posted for Kennedy, who was given a five-year sentence. He was charged with shooting a State Highway patrolman during the disturbance. *Sat. 12-14-46*  
the onward march of civilization, such ideologies have no plan nor purpose in the general provisions of God. . .

"We will organize a mutual cooperation league composed of all citizens of all classes and creeds, who believe in a full and free America," he said.







# Lawyers to Ask New Trial For Convicted Columbia Negro

Special to The Worker

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—Attorneys for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People are scheduled to appear in Circuit Court here Monday morning to argue for a new trial for Lloyd Kennedy, 21-year-old Negro bootblack sentenced to five years, two weeks ago on a frame-up attempt to murder charge. *Sun. 12-1-46*

Kennedy was convicted Nov. 18 by an all-white jury after a two-day trial. He was charged, along with William Pillow another defendant, with shooting and wounding a state highway patrolman Feb. 26 following an all-night raid on the Negro community. During the raid, an attempt was made to lynch James Stephenson, 19-year-old Negro Navy veteran.

Pillow was found not guilty. And in the case of Kennedy the jury reduced the charge from first degree attempt to murder to second degree attempt.

The Pillow-Kennedy trial followed a trial of 25 Columbia Negroes on similar charges in Lawrenceburg, 32 miles south of here. Twenty-three of the defendants were freed and two, John McKivens and Robert Gentry, were sentenced to 21 years. McKivens and Gentry are free on \$5,000 bail each awaiting a new trial.

Maurice M. Weaver white attorney from Chattanooga and Dr. Z Alexander Looby, Nashville's leading Negro lawyer, are scheduled to appear as counsel for Kennedy on Monday.

Weaver, Looby and Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, and The Worker correspondent Harry Raymond were stopped by Maury County officers on the Nashville Highway after leaving the courtroom on Nov. 18. Their car was searched. *12-1-46*

They were held captive in what they believed to be a lynch attempt. And in a further attempt to intimidate them, Marshall was falsely charged with driving while drunk. He was released when the group proved to a magistrate the trumped-up nature of the charge.

## May Drop All Columbia Cases

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—Local lawyers expressed belief last week that new trials ordered for John McKivens, 26, and Robert Gentry, 24, who were convicted when 23 other defendants in last Febru-

ary's racial disturbance were recently acquitted, will be nolle prossed. *Sat.*

They pointed out that since the high court ruled that the jury's verdict was not supported by the weight of the evidence, the State has no new evidence to justify new prosecutions. *11-9-46*

The same considerations are believed to prevail in regard to auxiliary indictments of other defendants allegedly connected with the incident.

### Major Issue Evaded

This handling of the complicated sociological and legal problems involved in the situation is generally conceded to be an evasion of the principal issue.

Columbians advance the explanation that other towns and cities in this area are equally uncertain about what should be done to forestall the unreasoning racial outbreaks seen during the past summer.

### Deep Scars Remain

The February outbreak here left such deep scars that civic leaders are in agreement that it has been impossible to take substantial steps to prevent a similar tragedy.

The only concrete development has been strengthening of the city police force, which is not a promising preventive, according to interested citizens.

With the acquittal of the 23 defendants, community leaders feel that the other indictments will not be pressed. They feel very keenly the unfavorable publicity given their prosperous community which enjoyed, until February, immunity from lynchings and mob rule for 20 years.

### Seeks Expert Advice

Mrs. W. A. Dale, a local resident, and a director of the Southern Regional Council with headquarters in Atlanta, is understood to have requested that organization to send one of its experts here to advise the local group on preventive measures against racism.

In an analysis of the affray in Mink Slide, the Council said that violence could have been easily prevented if an interracial committee enjoying the confidence of both races had been in existence.

### Unnoticed by Harlemites

*The News and Courier, Charleston, S.C.*  
While colored prophets and orators in the Harlemites keep excitement in their race keyed up about the lynchings who murdered four negroes near Monroe, Georgia, (those murderers should be detected, arrested, tried, convicted and hanged), and about other "Southern outrages", The News and Courier reminds that the other day a riot broke out in Florence, South Carolina, the only riot in the state in many a year, and that the participants in it were 135

discharged negro soldiers on a train. First, some of them attacked and beat military policemen. The civil police of Florence, white men, came to the rescue of the men who had been assaulted, suppressed the riot and arrested the rioters, all of whom were duly fined. The affair was in no sense a "race riot", negroes had a monopoly of it until the police of Florence came and halted some negroes from hurting, possibly killing, other men. This, The News and Courier repeats, has been the only serious outbreak of mob violence in South Carolina in the "war years", in many years before them. The violence did not result in tragedy, and when the colored people of the Harlemites have a mighty demonstration in New York, it would be a sign of the sincerity and sanity of their opposition to mobs in the South if they would condemn the behavior of the negro mob in Florence and vote their thanks to the white people that the negroes were not allowed further to wound or perhaps to kill one another.

## 'Yankee Justice' Needed?

*The Times-Dispatch*  
Editor, The Times-Dispatch:  
While the trial of 25 Negroes in Columbia, Tennessee, for the part they played in causing the riot was going on, your paper praised Southern justice for having cleared 23 of the total. Meantime, you lashed out at Northern interference before the trial. While I do not think most people could go along with you in this respect, for the time being, you were conceded that point. *Fri. 12-20-46*

It looked as though you were about to be vindicated in your conclusion until something slipped in Southern justice, on November 18. On that date just as chief counsel for the 25 Negroes was leaving Columbia, en route to Nashville, he, Thurgood Marshall, was set upon by Columbia policemen, deputy sheriffs and highway policemen, who trumped up a charge of having whisky in his car. Having been searched and found

innocent, he was let go, only to be halted later on a charge of driving under the influence of whisky. He was carried before a constable and found not to have any whisky on his breath. *Richmond, Va.*  
The whole affair was aimed at preventing Marshall from future legal action in any attempt to free the last of the 25 Negroes charged with having a part in the Columbia riot. Is this the type of justice about which you have written? Should we not have interference from the North or elsewhere to round up these defenders of law and order? Should we call upon the strong arm of the United States to give Marshall or any other man protection in future legal action in Columbia or any other place so infested with injustice? *JAMES P. SPENCER.*

Richmond, RFD. *12-20-46*

# Rush Trial of 2 Columbia Negroes

*Daily Worker*  
Special to The Daily Worker

*New York, N.Y. Sat. 11-16-46*

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Nov. 15.—An angry district attorney, stung by the acquittal in Lawrenceburg last month of 23 Columbia Negro defendants, began presenting testimony here today against two other Negroes, demanding their imprisonment for defending their community against a lynch mob court and prosecution to sweep the the Stephensons, too, regardless of last February. defense off its feet and complete the outcome of the present case.

Those being prosecuted in the fresh attempt at legal lynching are William Pillow and Lloyd Kennedy. They are charged with attempt to commit murder.

The two were rushed to trial after motions for change of venue and to quash the jury panel were denied by Circuit Court Judge Joe M. Ingram.

Judge Ingram, on suggestion of Prosecutor Paul Bumpus, ordered night sessions of the court to "speed" the trial.

### JURY SELECTED

Twelve jurors and one alternate were selected during a night session Thursday.

Pillow and Kennedy are represented by Maurice Weaver, white attorney from Chattanooga, and Dr. Z. Alexander Looby, the South's leading Negro lawyer. Both attorneys are counsel for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, was scheduled to fly here tonight from New York to join the defense battery.

The situation here is critical. It is believed Prosecutor Bumpus Every effort is being made by the

the trial in a couple of days. The Stephensons are charged with felonious assault.

The Negroes are being tried in an extremely hostile atmosphere. And the "white supremacy" gang is boasting there will be no acquittals like the 23 wrung from the Lawrence County jury after a long trial.

Pillow and Kennedy are charged with shooting and wounding a policeman in the darkened Negro district Feb. 25. At the time of

**Daily Worker staff writer Harry Raymond, who covered the Tennessee disturbances and the first Columbia trial, is scheduled to arrive in Columbia today. He will file complete on-the-spot reports of this new attempt at legal lynching.**

the shooting a white mob was seeking James Stephenson, 19-year-old Navy veteran, and his mother.

The pair were marked for lynching. The mob formed after young Stephenson struck a white radio repairman who attacked Stephenson's mother.

Also awaiting trial on another indictment charging attempt to commit murder is John Blackwell, a Negro who was brutally beaten and nearly killed by highway patrolmen during a raid by uniformed state officers on the Negro community.

After wrecking the Negro business community and marking a huge KKK on a casket in an undertaking parlor, state patrolmen, under Highway Commissioner Lynn Bomar, shot to death James Johnson and William Gordon, two Negroes, in the county jail.

Two other defendants, Robert Gentry and John McKivens, convicted and sentenced to 21 years in the Tennessee State Prison during the Lawrenceburg trial, have been granted new trials. Action on their cases is pending.



# Lynch Try Fails on 'Daily' Man and Lawyers in Tenn.

By Harry Raymond

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19. — I saw the gun toting Ku Klux Klan in action on the outskirts of Columbia, Tenn., last night. They were not wearing white sheets. They were operating as official law enforcement officers of the city, county and state. Cowardly men, they had plotted what they thought would be the perfect frame-up and perhaps a lynching. But they failed.

It all started at seven o'clock last night, when a jury of white men marched into the newly-painted Maury County Courtroom. J. W. Russell, local tire dealer and jury foreman, announced that after an hour and 25 minutes deliberation he and his colleagues had come to the conclusion that William Pillow, 38-year-old Negro stone mason, was not guilty of shooting and wounding a state highway patrolman on Feb. 26, the day after the Columbia Negro community took up arms and stopped the lynching of James Stephenson, navy veteran of major Pacific campaigns.

A few minutes later, Lloyd Kennedy, 21-year-old Negro bootblack, walked out of the courtroom on \$5,000 bail. The jury had declared him guilty of firing a shotgun at the patrolman. But they declined to render the verdict demanded by a violent prosecutor, a man called Paul F. Bumpus.

Bumpus had told the jury all law enforcement would break down and wives of jurymen would die at the hands of Negro assassins if Kennedy, as well as Pillow, were not convicted of attempt to commit murder in the first degree and sentenced to 21 years. The jury sentenced Kennedy to serve a five-year maximum term for attempt to commit murder in the second degree. Motion for a new trial set him free on bail.

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Nov. 18.— An all white Maury County jury tonight sentenced Lloyd Kennedy, 21-year-old Negro bootblack to five years

in the Tennessee state penitentiary.

William Pillow, the other defendant in the second Columbia race trial, was declared not guilty of charges of attempt to murder a highway patrolman.

The verdicts were returned at 7 p. m., Central time, after the jury deliberated for an hour and 25 minutes.

Prosecutor Paul Bumpus sought convictions of both defendants on charges to commit murder in the first degree. Conviction would have carried 21-year prison sentences.

The jury declared Kennedy guilty of attempt to murder in the second degree.

NAACP attorneys are preparing to appeal.

As I left the courtroom to telegraph the verdict to the Daily Worker, another man, a heavy set Columbian, dashed through the door beside me. He was agitated and declared: "Something must be done," to make up for "failure of the jury system." I recalled that the man called Bumpus a few hours before and suggested that the citizens should organize if the jury failed to impose the maximum sentence against the two Negro defendants.

The atmosphere was tense. I expected something serious, something of a violent nature, to happen. I could have gotten away from it all by returning to Nashville with two Tennessee newspapermen who pleaded with me to ride out of town in their car.

The newspapermen were my friends. But the two Negro lawyers and the white attorney for the defense were also my friends. I knew my job of reporting would not be completed until I personally knew these men, attorneys for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, were safely out of Columbia.

They had been threatened with lynching. I had heard the threats. I thereupon thanked my newspaper friends for the offer of transportation to Nashville. I told them I would go to Nashville in the automobile owned by Z. Alexander Looby, Nashville Negro attorney and chief defense counsel. Dr. Looby had invited me to ride in the car with him. We took off from Columbia's

business district, shortly before eight o'clock in the evening. Thurgood Marshall, brilliant general counsel for the NAACP, was driving the car. I sat next to him in the front seat.

Sitting in the back, amid stacks of law books and typewritten records of the case, sat Looby, owner of the car, and Maurice Weaver of Chattanooga, lone white attorney for the defense. I had warned Weaver I had reason to believe a lynch mob was on the prowl—some of the same gang that tried to hang Stephenson.

We did not have long to wait. Three-quarters of a mile north of the Duck River, on the Nashville Highway, we were hailed to a stop by eight men in three cars. One car, operated by two highway patrolmen, tore past us with siren screaming. It parked in front of us. We were at once pounced upon by the highway patrolmen, several men in civilian clothes and two Columbia policemen.

They approached us with right hands on their pistols and blinding us with flashlights carried in their left hands.

The three lawyers and myself were unarmed. It looked like a lynching. We knew officers of the law had directed and participated in two earlier Maury County lynchings; that they killed two Negroes in the County Jail during the February "trouble." And we had evidence that they were the ones that marked the huge KKK on a casket in a Negro undertaking parlor during the February raid.

Facing guns and glaring flashlights, we piled out of the car, Weaver acting as spokesman and protesting vigorously against the violation of our civil rights. It was an uneven affair. We had nothing but our bare fists. The thugs, who identified themselves as constables, deputy sheriffs, city policemen and highway patrolmen, were heavily armed.

They told us they had a warrant to search the car. We demanded they produce the warrant. They did. And we read it under the flashlights. It was a John Doe warrant, signed by Sam Butts, Columbia deputy sheriff, charging we were transporting liquor in violation of the county local option law. But a search of the car revealed no liquor.

The three lawyers and I returned to the car and Looby took Marshall's place at the wheel. We drove off a short distance, only to be surrounded again by the armed men. This time they charged Marshall had been driving without a license. Marshall produced his license and the gunmen reluctantly told us we could proceed.

We started the car, Looby driving, and were surrounded and halted again. They told me I had been driving the car. I told them they were talking foolishly. There was a short conference. The thugs returned and declared Marshall under arrest for driving while "under the influence of liquor."

The gunmen hustled Marshall into a car, told the rest of us we were free to go. But we feared Marshall was being carried off to be picked up by a lynch mob as had happened in earlier cases. We were more certain of this when the car bearing Marshall turned off the highway and speeded up a back country dirt road.

With our front bumper almost touching the rear of the raiders' car, we trailed them. Looby was at the wheel. The thugs turned back into Columbia. Marshall was taken out of the car and marched into the office of Magistrate J. J. Pogue. Weaver and I leaped from our car and followed Thurgood and the officers into the building. Looby, driving at top speed, dashed to the Negro district to spread the alarm and secure money and bonds, which we thought would be necessary to get Marshall out of the clutches of the county officers.

Highway patrolmen and city policemen did not enter the Magistrate's office. They circled the area.

Weaver and I immediately confronted the Magistrate. He admitted he had issued the frame-up warrant to search the car. The armed county officers surrounded us. Weaver angrily denounced the county officers as a bunch of "frame-up" artists. He demanded Magistrate Pogue at once examine Marshall, smell his breath and decide whether the Negro lawyer had been drinking. Pogue ordered Marshall to breathe long breaths in his direction.

Pogue turned to the county officers and declared: "This man has not been drinking. I will not sign a warrant for his arrest."

The elderly Magistrate then proceeded to denounce the frame-up. He shook hands with the Negro lawyer, with Weaver and with me. One by one the county officers, their hands on their pistol butts, left the room.

Magistrate Pogue then told us the county officers had come to the wrong man if they wanted to frame-up one of the Negro lawyers. He said he was the one Magistrate in Columbia who refused to sign warrants for the arrest of Negroes during the February raids. "They didn't come to me," Pogue declared. "You can look at my books and there's not a record there of any

arrests ordered by me during the February trouble."

But they did come to Magistrate C. Hayes Denton, old-time Maury County lynch mob leader. There might have been another lynching last night if Denton could have been found. That's what we feared. For it has been Denton's tactic to remand the person marked for lynching to jail.

Then a few telephone calls bring the boys out with the rope to storm the jail and to do the job. That has been the pattern of all recent Maury County lynchings.

I am certain such a lynching was planned last night. Thurgood Marshall was the intended victim. But the lynchers failed to carry out their plan because they are cowardly men and they knew we had the entire Columbia Negro community mobilized behind us.

I have not mentioned in this dispatch the names of any of the officers who held us captive on the Nashville highway. But if they think they are unknown, they are badly mistaken.

I have all their names written carefully in my notebook. Marshall, Looby, Weaver and myself demand that each of them be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for their shocking illegal gestapo-like conduct.

**Marshall Presses  
The Afro-American  
for Arrest Inquiry  
Baltimore, Md.  
Accuses Tenn. Officers**

of Intimidation in Wire  
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Freed by a magistrate following his arrest outside of Columbia, Tenn., on Monday on a trumped up charge, Thurgood Marshall, chief NAACP counsel, wired Attorney General Tom Clark for a Federal inquiry into the matter.

In his telegram, Marshall said he was arrested and later released, on suspicion of "driving while drunk" after officers halted and searched the car in which he was riding with Maurice Weaver, white attorney of Chattanooga, and Z. Alexander Looby of Nashville.

The three lawyers had just completed defense of two defendants on charges of attempted murder, in connection with the Columbia disturbance last February.

One of the two, Lloyd Kennedy, 21, found guilty, was sentenced to five years. The second, William A. Pillow, 38, was acquitted.

**Appeal to Mob Violence**  
Describing the incident that led to Marshall's arrest, Mr. Looby told the AFRO that Attorney Gen-



eral Paul Bumpus, who prosecuted Kennedy and Pillow as well as 25 other defendants at Lawrenceburg, in his closing argument to the jury had openly appealed to mob violence.

"If you gentlemen of the jury fail to do your duty in this case," Bumpus was quoted as admonishing the all-white panel, "it will be up to the good white citizens of Maury County to defend themselves against these outrages."

#### Klan Methods

"Ku Kluxers don't have to wear the bed sheets, they can just as well wear the shields of law enforcement officers," Maurice Weaver charged against the Tennessee highway patrol of Columbia and Maury County.

Mr. Looby said he, Marshall and Weaver, after leaving the court house about 8 o'clock Monday night, had gone to Mink Slide for a conference with several leaders, when they noticed a police car in which four officers were riding, pass slowly by their car.

#### Crowded to Side of Road

Later, after the defense counsel had started driving on the main highway back to Nashville from Columbia, they heard a police siren behind them. A few seconds later three police cars drove up and crowded their car, driven by Mr. Marshall, to the side of the road.

One of the cars remained behind, the second crowded their car at the side, while the third blocked the road in front. Eight officers, representing Columbia police, State Highway patrolmen and deputy sheriffs, piled out of the cars and walked to the car.

One held up a search warrant and demanded the right to search the lawyers' car. Looby said they insisted on reading the warrant and, after finding it in order, got out and allowed the policemen to conduct their search.

#### Arrested After 3rd Pursuit

Finding no whisky, the officers allowed them to drive off, Mr. Looby said, only to overtake them two more times. On the third occasion, the officers placed Mr. Marshall under arrest, charging him with operating an automobile under the influence of whisky.

The men first demanded to see Mr. Marshall's driving license, Mr. Looby said, and after finding it in order, insisted that he get in their car and accompany them to jail.

#### Possible Tragedy Averted

The officers drove off with Mr. Marshall, but instead of proceeding down the main highway, turned off into a side road headed toward some dense woods. Mr. Looby said he and Weaver proceeded to follow the police car.

Becoming aware that they were being trailed, the officers turned back to the main highway and headed for the magistrate's office.

Just as the magistrate was about to sign a warrant holding Mr. Mar-

shall under arrest for drunken driving, Mr. Looby said he and Mr. Weaver suggested that perhaps it would be wise to examine Mr. Marshall to determine whether or not he had been drinking.

#### No Evidence, Released

The magistrate, J. J. Payne, ordered Mr. Marshall to blow his breath, and after detecting whisky, freed the NAACP special counsel.

Leaving the magistrate's office, the three lawyers, noticing a large number of police officers milling around outside, decided to return to Mink Slide, fearing that they would again be stopped should they start back to Nashville.

They were successful in borrowing another automobile in the colored section, leaving Mr. Looby's easily identifiable maroon-colored sedan overnight. They reached Nashville without further molestation.

"This sort of intimidation of defense lawyers charged with the duty of defending persons charged with crime cannot go unnoticed. Therefore, I demand immediate investigation and criminal charges against the officers who participated in the outrage," the telegram read. *Sat. 11-30-46*

#### Patrol Mere Spectators

State Safety Commissioner Lynn Bomar, white, said Wednesday that the Highway Patrol did not participate in the arrest, but merely stopped to see what was going on.

"No statement could be farther from the truth," Weaver declared. "The State patrol car sounded its siren which caused us to stop in the first place. A county car drove alongside ours flashing lights into our automobile."

"When we got out of our car, the patrol car was back of us. While our car was being searched, the patrol was present and participating by looking into the trunk of our car," Weaver emphasized.

#### No New Indignity

"Searching under such circumstances is not a new thing to the State Highway patrol, or to Commissioner Bomar as his testimony of illegal searches carried on in February against colored citizens in Columbia, will verify," he added.

"This outrage against American Freedom called for by Attorney Bumpus and responded to by officers of the law, is in the best Ku Klux fashion imaginable."

At Columbia, Sheriff Flo Fleming said, "The warrant for the search was obtained by City Constable A. M. Butts on information given by some of the colored people here. Marshall was arrested, but released by a magistrate who found he was not drunk."

#### Retrial Motion Filed

Mr. Looby told the AFRO that a motion for a new trial has already been filed in the case of Lloyd Kennedy, who was convicted and that Judge Ingram set Dec. 6 as the date for the hearing.

## One Freed, One Convicted Defender Chicago, Ill. In New Columbia Riot Trial

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — In the second trial stemming from the Columbia riot last February 25, one Negro was acquitted and another convicted and sentenced to not more than five years' imprisonment here on charges of attempt to commit murder.

Both Lloyd Kennedy, 21, and William A. Pitlow, 28, who was acquitted, were charged with firing on state highway patrolmen who invaded the Mink Slide area following threats of lynching Mrs. Gladys Stephenson and her son, James. A motion for a new trial for Kennedy, was filed by Defense Counsel Maurice Weaver, white Chattanooga lawyer, and Z. Alexander Looby, one of the South's leading Negro lawyers. *Sat.*

Thurgood Marshall, special NAACP counsel, related to a New Orleans audience last week how he narrowly escaped what might have been a lynching, when the Columbia deputies arrested him on trumped up charges of "drunken driving," during the trial. *11-30-46*

On entering Columbia, Marshall said, most of the whites had left or were leaving town, driving in the direction of Duck River where it was predicted that the bodies of Marshall and Weaver would be found if they came to Columbia.

Marshall was released from Magistrate Pough's office after the deputies failed to show that he had been driving under the influence of liquor. Marshall, Weaver, Looby, and Harry Raymond, a newsman, were challenged by the whites while enroute to Nashville. They had to change cars and take a back road to continue their trip.

Protests against the outrage have been made to the Department of Justice in Washington.

During the trial, former Maury County Sheriff J. J. Underwood identified Kennedy and Pitlow as the men he arrested in a building a few minutes after he saw shotgun blasts come from it and around three state highway patrolmen.

State Patrolman Ray Austin testified that the blasts came from a barber shop as the patrolmen entered the block about 6:45 a.m. Julius Blair, one of the 23 acquitted in Lawrenceburg, testified in behalf of the character of both defendants.

At the outset, motions for a change of venue were denied the defendants and the trial was held in "night sessions" to "speed" the procedure. Prosecutor Paul Bumpus again joined Judge Ingram after their first defeat last October.

The jury deliberated one hour and 20 minutes. *Chicago, Ill.*

## Basic Issue Back Of Incident Not Settled

Memphis, Tenn.

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn. — Another victory against the forces of intolerance was hailed Monday by Walter White, executive secretary, NAACP, with the acquittal yesterday of Robert Gentry and John McGivens, two defendants convicted in October in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., in the trial of twenty-five Negroes under indictment in connection with the February "riots" in Columbia. The other twenty-three defendants were acquitted last October. The "not guilty" verdict was handed down Jan. 31 in Lawrenceburg, by recommendation of Tennessee District Attorney General Paul Bumpus, prosecutor in the case. *Jul. 2-11-47*

With the acquittal of Gentry and McGivens the NAACP marks up a score of twenty-five freed out of twenty-five tried. Of two other defendants in Columbia, one Lloyd Kennedy, still faces a five-year jail sentence while an acquittal was obtained for William Pillow, tried with him on November 18th, in Columbia. Kennedy's conviction is being appealed by NAACP lawyers.

The acquittal of these two defendants, Walter White called a "victory for democracy." Mr. White stated: "This is great news and a tribute to the lawyers — Messrs Z. Alexander Looby, Maurice Weaver and Leon Ransome—who made and won this fight in the face of probably the most hostile and difficult conditions of any case in American legal history. It is a tribute also to the sense of fair play of some Tennesseans."

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People expresses its warmest thanks to thousands of Americans of both races who responded to our appeal through the contribution of funds for the defense, in forming the National Committee for Justice in Columbia under the leadership of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Channing H. Tobias, and to the press, both Negro and white, for its superb coverage of these trials."

#### FIGHT NOT OVER

"A real victory for democracy has been won—a victory of importance to the defendants, but one which undoubtedly will stay similar attempts to terrorize and victimize Negroes and members of other minorities."

"But one must not forget that the fight is not over, since there are still seven persons awaiting trial including Mrs. Gladys Stephenson and her 19-year-old veteran son, one man already convicted now on appeal. Even the acquittal or dismissal of the charges against these eight, when and if that takes place does not mean that the basic issue back of the Columbia incident is



# Officer Beaten, Stomped By Houston Crowd; Partner Slain

*Daily World Atlanta, Ga.*

*Sat 8-31-46*

HOUSTON—(ANP)—An angry crowd of men and women united in disarming a white policeman here last Sunday, beating and stomping him to the ground after he went to the rescue of his partner, who was killed. One colored man was also killed in the melee.

The whipped policeman, Thomas B. Hambley, in reporting to his superiors, stated that he and H. B. Hammond, the dead patrol officer, were cruising down Dowling street at about 2:10 a. m. when they came upon a free-for-all in Jack's cleaners. Stopping the car, Hambley went inside, pushing his way through the crowd that filled the place.

"Suddenly," Hambley said, "I heard Hammond cry for help and then some shots. I turned and tried to fight my way through the crowd back to the doorway. When I reached there, Hammond lay on the sidewalk. The body of a Negro man lay across him."

## Took Pistol, Light

"When I stooped, six or eight Negro men and women grabbed at me and began to tussle with me. They took my pistol and flashlight away and beat me. Then they got me down and stomped me. I don't know if Hammond was dead when I found him on the sidewalk or not. Maybe he was just knocked out. He could have been shot with my pistol after they took it away from me."

Hammond was pronounced dead when an ambulance reached St. Joseph's infirmary with him. He had been shot once through the forehead. The other dead man, who was identified later as Louis Henson, about 30, had been shot twice in the stomach and chest. When first discovered, Henson had one penny in his pocket and no identification papers.

*Sat 8-31-46*  
Between 50 and 60 city policemen, deputy sheriffs, state highway patrolmen and Texas rangers, armed with sawed-off shotguns, rushed to the scene after being summoned by Patrolmen William Stevenson, Negro. This corps of police officials put the entire area under martial law, seizing 19 suspects, all Negroes, and holding them in Cafe Zanzibar, next door to the cleaning establishment, for questioning, while more than 300 milled around outside.



56a 1946

Sailors

# 43 Sailors The Informers Pardoned In Guam Riot

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—  
Correcting its announcement that  
thirty-six of the colored sailors con-  
victed of riot on Guam in Decem-  
ber, 1944, had been granted clemen-  
cy the Navy Department said Wed-  
nesday that forty-three of the men  
had been pardoned and the case of  
one other was now being considered  
for clemency.

The Navy also revealed that eight  
of the men had been tried for vari-  
ous other serious crimes in addition  
to the riot charge such as conduct  
prejudicial to good order and dis-  
cipline, applying government prop-  
erty to their own personal use, and  
breaking arrest.

These men were tried separately  
from the thirty-six whose restoration  
to duty was announced on January  
7, and the separation of their cases  
caused the error in the original state-  
ment.

Houston - Texas  
According to Walter White, NAA-  
CP executive secretary, who acted  
as defense counsel in the case, forty-  
five men were convicted, but the  
Navy has accounted for only forty-  
four. In all stat ments from the De-  
partment on the Guam incident the  
figure forty-four has been used. Of-  
ficials here could not account for  
the discrepancy in figures.



# Negro Mob Dispersed At Denver Army Post

*The News*  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

DENVER, Oct. 30—(AP)—A group of Negro soldiers was dispersed with tear gas at Lowry Field last night, Capt. William W. Coleman, public relations officer, said, following a disturbance in a service club at the Army airfield.

Nine soldiers were treated for cuts and bruises at the station hospital and later released.

Coleman gave this account:

Three soldiers were injured in a disturbance at the service club between five Negro and five white soldiers. The cause of the disturbance was not learned. *led.*

About an hour later military police noticed the Negro soldiers gathering beside their barracks. As the MPs sought to disperse the soldiers, they were hit with stones thrown by the Negroes. Six men were injured. *80-30-46*

Fire fighting equipment was called to the scene, and the field provost marshal, Maj. Donald A. Young, ordered two tear gas shells discharged.

The tear gas dispersed all but one group. As this group approached the fire truck, Coleman asserted, a harmless "soap suds" preparation used for extinguishing fires was sprayed over it, dispersing the men.



**SOLDIERS GET LONG TERMS**

*The Times*  
**2 Negroes Charged With Mutiny  
 Are Convicted, One of Assault**

**TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 13 (P)**—An Army general court-martial convicted one MacDill Field Negro soldier of mutiny and rioting today and another of assault in connection with a riot at the air base on Oct. 27. *New York, N. Y.*

The court of white and Negro officers sentenced Pvt. James L. Treadwell of Cincinnati to twenty years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances. *12-14-46*

Corp. Joseph Pleasants, tried on the same charges, was acquitted of mutiny but convicted of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to do bodily harm. He was sentenced to three years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of pay and allowances.

The riot began when Negro privates tried to force their way into a Negro non-commissioned officers' club dance. The disturbance spread to other parts of the field.

## Racial Strife Ends Without Violence

**MIAMI, Fla.—[UP]**—A flare-up of racial strife here last night was quelled without violence and police arrested two white men who allegedly had beaten a young Negro employee.

Nicholas S. Misleh, 29, and Roger J. Misleh, 24, brothers who operate a grocery store in a Negro section, were charged with creating a disturbance. They said the Negro had stolen from the store.

A mob of Negroes estimated at 400 surrounded the store after the Misleh's were taken away, and bricks were hurled through its plate glass windows. The riot squad dispersed the group without "laying hand on a man," Sgt. N. A. Clark said.

**Nine Others On  
 Trial In Oct. 27  
 Birmingham, Ala.  
 Air Base Melee**  
*Fri. 12-20-46*

**TAMPA, Fla.—(NNPA)**—An Army general court-martial convicted one MacDill Field soldier of mutiny and rioting last night and another of assault in connection with a riot at the air base on October 27.

The court of white and colored officers sentenced Private James L. Treadwell, 23, of Cincinnati, to twenty years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Corp. Joseph Pleasants, 27, of Penola, Virginia, tried on the same charges, was acquitted of mutiny but convicted of assault with a deadly weapon with intent

to do bodily harm. He was sentenced to three years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of pay and allowances.

**Dance Background**  
 The riot began when privates tried to force their way into a non-commissioned officers' club dance. The disturbance spread to other parts of the field.

The sentences are subject to review by the Fifteenth Air Force headquarters and the office of the Judge Advocate General.

Nine other soldiers went on trial last Saturday on mutiny charges which grew out of the same incident and disturbance which later spread to other parts of the air base.

Testimony had been given to the mixed court that soldiers stoned autos, attacked officers and shouted threats of "taking over the Army and running it."

Declaring "they treated me like a hostage," Lieutenant Colonel Russell G. May, commandant of colored troops, testified that the men refused to obey his repeated commands to disperse.

**Protest Jim Crowism**  
 Lieutenant Colonel T. B. Sanford, a squadron commander, related that he heard one man shout, "We're going to fight for our rights and for our race. We did all the bad things in the Army and this is what we get. We have to ride in the back of buses."

The officer said the group later shifted to the main gate of the base where a white civilian was beaten down with an iron pipe and another unidentified man in "some kind of uniform" was "nearly scalped" with a broken beer bottle.

Colonel Sanford said the crowd finally "just melted away" after Brigadier General D. R. Hutchinson, base commander, spoke to them.

**Sentence 7 More in  
 MacDill Field Riot**  
*The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.*

**TAMPA, Fla.—(NNPA)**—Sentences varying from four to twenty years were given seven soldiers convicted by an Army court-martial last Wednesday night on charges of rioting and mutiny as the result of a disturbance at MacDill Field on the night of Oct. 27.

The trouble grew out of an attempt by privates to rush a dance at a non-commissioned officers' club at the field. Two other soldiers were found guilty recently on charges growing out of the same disturbance. *Sat. 12-28-46*

Two of the nine who went on trial Dec. 16 were acquitted. The other seven were sentenced to terms ranging from four to twenty years. Those convicted and their prison terms are Leonard Dotson of Shreveport, La., 25 years; Eddie L.

## Two Alabama Soldiers Convicted By Army

**TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 19—(P)**—Sentences varying from 25 to four years were given seven Negro soldiers including two from Alabama, convicted by an Army court-martial last night of charges of rioting and mutiny as the result of a disturbance at MacDill Field Oct. 27.

The trouble grew out of an attempt by Negro privates to rush a dance at a Negro non-commissioned officers club at the field.

Two other soldiers were found guilty last week on charges growing out of the same incident.

Two of the nine who went on trial Monday were acquitted. They were Pvt. Earl Collins, of Winston-Salem, N. C., and Gary W. Blake, of Baltimore, *Birmingham, Ala.*

Those convicted and their prison terms included Harrison Greer, of Tunica, Miss., 10 years; Albert Jackson, of Dutchtown, Ala., and James E. Green, of Tupelo, Miss., both five years, and Joe D. Henry, of Pittsview, Ala., four years. *Thurs. 12-19-46*

The cases are subject to review by a higher authority.

## 20-Year Term

**Corporal Sentenced;**

**9 More Face Trial**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**OFFICERS ATTACKED**  
*Sat. 12-21-46*

**Trouble Started by**

**Raid on NCO Club**

**TAMPA, Fla. (NNPA)—An**

Army general court-martial on Dec. 13, convicted one MacDill Field soldier of mutiny and rioting, and another of assault in connection with a riot at the air base on Oct. 27.

The court, composed of officers of both races, sentenced Pvt. James L. Treadwell, 23, of Cincinnati to 20 years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

**Corporal Gets 3 Years**

Cpl. Joseph Pleasants, 27, of Penola, Va., tried on the same charges, was acquitted of mutiny, but convicted of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to do bodily harm.

He was sentenced to three years at hard labor, with a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of pay and allowances.

The riot began when privates tried to force their way into a non-commissioned officers' club dance. The disturbance spread to other parts of the field. The sentences are subject to review by the 15th Air Force headquarters and the office of the Judge Advocate General.

**9 GIs On Trial**

Nine other soldiers went on trial, last Saturday, on mutiny charges which grew out of the same incident. Testimony had been given to the court that soldiers stoned autos, attacked officers and shouted threats of "taking over the Army and running it."

Declaring that "they treated me like a hostage," Lt. Col. Russell G. May, commander of the rioting troops, testified that the men refused to obey his repeated commands to disperse.

**Resentment Crops Out**

Lt. Col. T. B. Sanford, a squadron commander, related that he heard one man shout, "We're going to fight for our rights and for our race. We did all the bad things in the Army and this is what we get. We have to ride in the back of buses."

The officer said the group later shifted to the main gate of the base, where a white civilian was beaten down with an iron pipe and another unidentified man in "some kind of uniform" was

"nearly scalped" with a broken beer bottle.

Colonel Sanford said the crowd finally "just melted away" after Brig. Gen. D. R. Hutchinson, base commander, spoke to them.

**Deputies Turned Back**

From Capt. D. A. Bolger came an account of how the soldiers threw rocks at Army and civilian cars; how they erected a barricade at a main gate; and how Army officers told sheriff's deputies to leave the scene and let the Army handle the riot.

"A soldier in the group shouted," he said: "Give us guns, too. We'll settle this thing. We won the war."

Private Treadwell, he continued, was "wild-eyed" and answered officers commands and pleas to disperse with "Yeah, you'll get us in the mess hall and shoot us."

**To Take Over Army**

Lt. John L. Pelensky said he heard some of the leaders say they were going to take over the Army and run it . . . that they were tired of the way the Army was being run.

When he addressed Private Treadwell and ordered him to leave the area, Lieutenant Pelensky said the GI replied: "At ease, lieutenant, I'm doing the talking tonight." *The Afro-American*

The prosecution introduced a confession which Corporal Pleasants had admitted making to investigators that he hit a military policeman over the head in answer to question, "Where are you going?" *Baltimore, Md.*

**Other Soldiers Rallied**

The confession also related how Corporal Pleasants went into his barracks and told other soldiers, "Fall out . . . and get some clubs and join me and help the boys at the NCO club." *Sat. 12-21-46*

Capt. Charles E. Lambert, who was officer of the day during the riot, testified that a crowd which he estimated at about 250 soldiers tried to gain entrance into a non-commissioned officers club and attacked him.

**Put Officer to Flight**

As he approached the crowd milling around the club, someone shouted "Here's one of them," beer bottles began flying through the air and several hit him, he said, adding that the 9Moh waited around and started running.

When he stopped shortly afterwards, most of the crowd also halted, but a few continued advancing. Pulling out his Army pistol he fired two shots into the air, he reported.

He grabbed the two men nearest him in the group and sent them to military headquarters. Afterwards he heard several shots fired, he testified. He said he observed one military policeman, who had been hit on the head and also saw a soldier "who had been shot badly."

## Private Gets

*The Afro-American*



# 7 Negro GI's Convicted, 2 Free In Mutiny Case

*Daily Worker*  
*New York, N.Y. Thurs. 12-26-46*

Daily Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Seven Negro soldiers have been convicted and two cleared of mutiny charges by a court martial of Negro and white officers at McDill Field, Tampa, Fla., the War Department said today.

Only two GIs have been sentenced, according to information reaching here. One has been sentenced to 20 years, the other three years.

Charges grew out of a riot in front of the Negro non-commissioned officers club last October, an Army spokesman said. One man was killed by military police as enlisted men tried to crash the club.

Independent reports reaching the Daily Worker blame the disturbance on inadequate recreational facilities for the 4000 Negro GIs at the field, who don't have facilities equal to those for the 2000 white soldiers there. 12-26-46

Two officers, both southerners, reportedly had a hand in the verdicts. One of them, appointed as an adviser to the court, is said to have gathered evidence for the prosecution.

The other, a Lt. Col. May, was recently assigned to handle questions regarding Negro personnel.

The War Department here said it had no knowledge of details surrounding the case nor was it able to report the full story until more information arrived from McDill Field.



## Senegalese Clash With Creoles In French Guiana

CAYENNE, French Guiana — (ANP)—Senegalese troops in this area were shipped home last week following an outbreak between them and French creole residents here recently during the first big local pre-Lenten festival in six years. The French government had violated a promise to repatriate them by holding them here from seven to 10 years.

The clash between the weary troops and local creoles started when masquers and other celebrants turned out en masse to the pre-Lenten festivities at a local dancing casino. A Senegalese ripped the mask from a girl's face, only to have his face slapped by her creole escort. The insult, considered worse than death to a Mohammedan Senegalese, started a fight that resulted in the beating of the soldier along with one of his comrades. 5-18-46

Other Senegalese heard about the fight and began looking for creoles, not whites. More than 500 creoles had to seek safety under the American flag at Rochambeau Field, it was learned. American troops in full battle gear, armed with automatic weapons, were flown here to restore order, but were not called into action.

After the Senegalese were aboard the St. Dominique for Martinique and France, local residents agreed that the troops were homesick and weary. Some of them had been stationed here seven and 10 years.



# 4 R.C. Workers

## Duck Barrage

*Baltimore, Md.*  
Like Battle of Bulge,

Says an Eyewitness

*Sat 4-6-46*  
**SOLDIERS UNARMED**

No Word on Arrest

of Polish Attackers

By OLLIE STEWART  
AFRO Foreign Correspondent  
[Copyright. Reproduction in whole or in part expressly forbidden.]

GIessen, Germany — (By Cable)—Pfc. Dewitt Frost, 123 W. 115th St., New York City, was killed here on Mar. 22, during outbreak of terror when Polish guards employed by the U.S. Army, fired into a group of colored troops in the Red Cross Club. No other soldiers were hurt, but four frightened Red Cross workers including the director, were forced to crawl from one floor to another as bullets whizzed within inches of their heads. They were Misses Gladys Marlin, club director; Katherine Taylor, Philadelphia, former AFRO employee; Ann Brookings, program director; and Mrs. Myrtle Kildare, recently from the Potomac Club in Paris.

### Like Bulge Battle

In an exclusive interview with the AFRO on Sunday, a person who witnessed the outbreak and talked with Pfc. Frost a few minutes before he was killed, said "the Poles attacked the club twice between nine and ten o'clock."

"While they fired 500 rounds of shots into the building, it was like the Battle of the Bulge."

No warning preceded the attack by the Polish guards assigned to a nearby ration camp, and Red Cross women workers were unable to account for the firing into the building, since no disturbance had taken place in the vicinity.

### Soldiers Unarmed

All the colored soldiers were unarmed since last Thanksgiving Day when guns were taken away from colored troops here following a clash between Poles and Americans in a cafe.

The club is now closed and another location on an unpaved street behind the ration dump has been proposed, but the soldiers demand to know why the Poles are not being moved instead of to the club, recently made habitable after months of hard work.

During the investigation now in progress, Red Cross workers were assigned guards day and night. I saw Polish soldiers walking the streets with arms, although it was reported that they had been dis-

armed until the situation cleared up.

### GI Was Popular

Pfc. Frost was one of the best liked soldiers here. An accomplished musician who entertained at the club daily, he would have been 21 on Apr. 9, and was due to leave for home and a scholarship at the University of Chicago three days after he was killed.

Here's the story of what happened:

The soldiers were eating doughnuts and drinking coffee when one of their buddies ran in and shouted, "Here come the Poles."

### MP Beyond Reach

A hailstorm of bullets hit the building a moment later. Lying on the floor, Miss Martin, club director, called the military police but couldn't get them.

The lights were put out and everybody lay on the floor. The shooting halted for several minutes, then more Poles arrived in cars, and the barrage came again, only worse.

Miss Martin crawled past Pfc. Frost on the stairs, and, lying on the floor of her office, tried to call the military police again, but no luck.

### Frost Died on Stairs

Finally, the firing was over, and Pfc. Frost lay dead on the stairs. The officer in charge of security arrived, and later the military police.

Nobody knows whether the Polish guards guilty of the outrage have been caught or not since they disappeared.

### Reports Differ

It is reported that the attack was caused by the cutting of some Poles by a soldier, but three different versions are going the rounds. *Sat 4-6-46*

One is to the effect that a Polish guard shone a flashlight on one of the soldiers who cut and chased him. Another says the Pole went immediately to get his buddies and guns.

The third version is, that the Pole reportedly cut by the soldier was taken to the hospital and would live.

### Fight Denied

Red Cross workers deny the report that there was a fight in front of the club or in the vicinity. The club serves 600 soldiers stationed in and near Giessen, plus transients.

Rolley Wyer, Jr., of Tallahassee, Fla., field director for the area, arrived just as the shooting stopped. He had been making a survey of Red Cross installations. The Poles have been reported as being sorry for the outbreak, asserting that they didn't mean to kill anybody, but intended just to "frightened the boys a little bit."

### Germans Watch Outcome

A German woman said she was unable to understand why Americans who won the war, have to move the club to please people who were recently liberated by

Americans from German slavery, both of whom got 10-year sentences. *11-30-46*  
The Germans are watching closely the ability of Americans to deal with mob murders.

## Negro GI Killed

*Chicago, Ill.*  
In Rioting At

*See*  
German D.P. Camp

*Sat 4-6-46*  
MUNICH, Germany — A

brief, but violent riot at a Displaced Persons' camp,

four miles north of this

Bavarian city resulted in the

stabbing of two persons last week.

One of the victims was a Negro

American GI, Pvt. Delford Thomp-

son of Torrence, Calif. The other

was a Jewish refugee.

Pvt. Thompson was brought to a hospital here for treatment of stab wounds in the back.

Sketchy reports from the scene indicate that the riot started when Jewish refugees attacked a Polish

guard at the Seidlung DP camp.

Two German girls and a Polish military policeman were severely

beaten during the riot which was

quelled by Negro Military police.

The MPs arrested a Polish WAC

three German girls, a Polish MP

and four Jewish refugees.

The latest incident reinforces re-

ports from the American zone of

friction between colored GIs and

Polish soldiers. Many of the Poles,

notorious anti-Semites even in

pre-Hitler days, were further in-

fectured by the poison of race hatred

during the Nazi occupation.

## SEVEN SOLDIERS

GET PRISON TERMS

*Jellisonburg, Pa.*

FRANKFURT, Germany —

(NNPA)—Seven soldiers were sen-

tenced to varying terms last Wed-

nesday for taking part in a riot

last New Year's Eve, as the result

of conviction by a court-martial

here. *Sat.*

Those convicted and their sen-

tences were listed as: Pvt. Eddie

L. Brown, Los Angeles, 20 years;

Pvt. Olge Guiley, Wewoka, Okla.,

15 years; Pvts. Charlie Thompson

Jr., Columbia, S. C., and Garfield

Ruffin, Lewiston, N. C., and Lee

W. Joyner, Washington, D. C., 10

years; Pvt. Loan Crawford, Okla.,

8 years, and Pvt. Nathan R. Smith, River Rouge, Mich.,

5 years.

## 7 GI's Get Long Terms

for Riot in Germany

*Baltimore, Md.*

FRANKFORT, Germany—Seven

soldiers, found guilty of partici-

pating in a New Year's Eve riot

in which one white soldier was

killed and another wounded, were

given prison sentences of from 5

to 20 years following a court-

martial here recently. *Sat.*



## 4 Soldiers Killed in Italian Brawls Over Native Women

*The Afro-American*  
Baltimore, Md.  
Sat. 8-31-46  
ROME.—An Italian news agency said four colored soldiers were killed Saturday night in brawls with British and American soldiers over women at Livorno and Mestre.

Another news source said at least three persons, including a colored soldier and a British Tommy (GI) were reported killed, while Allied Headquarters reported one colored American soldier killed, and three other soldiers and four Italian civilians injured in the fray.

The Italian report said the riot at Mestre started when an Italian girl was stripped nude by her countrymen who objected to her Allied escort. British armored cars quelled the disturbance.

## Men Ordered Out of Italy

Whites Blamed

in Racial Clash

*The Afro-American*  
Baltimore, Md.  
28 ARE HELD  
Sat. 12-7-46  
Presence of Women

Leads to Disturbance

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The entire 838th Aviation Engineer Battalion, consisting of about 1000 men, has been returned to the United States from Italy because some of its members were involved in a clash with white American soldiers in Caserta, it was learned here last week.

Another 28 members of the battalion were reported to be held in confinement at Livorno, Italy, as a result of the clash.

Mrs. Mildred A. Fortson of Youngstown, Ohio, also was reported to have been taken into custody, but the American Red Cross said on Nov. 27, however, that she has returned to this country.

Women Invited to Camp

According to information received here, the trouble began when 800 replacements were assigned to the 838th which was stationed near Caserta.

Army Information and Education officers immediately set about arranging suitable recreational facilities for the troops within their camp in order to prevent their crowding into Caserta on leave.

To carry out their arrangements, Italian women were transported from Caserta to take part

in activities at the camp. This plan worked well, it was reported, until a sudden change of officer personnel in the 838th took place.

Officers Lead White GI's

According to reports, the new white officers immediately barred the Italian women from attending camp affairs, and when the colored soldiers sought entertainment in Caserta a clash with white troops over the women followed.

The conflict reached a climax when white troops are alleged to have gone to their area after several fist fights, armed themselves and returned led by their company officers.

The colored troops are reported to have gone to their area, broken into their supply room and obtained arms.

No Preparation Made

No reports on the outcome of the battle was available, but immediately following the incident the battalion was placed aboard ship and returned to the United States.

Unit members said the outfit was returned to the States so suddenly that port authorities in this country had not been notified of the time of their arrival and the unit's ship was forced to wait in the harbor several days before the troops could embark.

The War Department admitted that the unit had been ordered back to the States but would not comment on the cause. The 838th was overseas almost two years.

Case Being Investigated

Information concerning the unit was given to William A. Hill, executive secretary of the District of Columbia Branch of the NAACP, who communicated with the War Department.

Mr. Hill was informed that the information had been transmitted to Marcus H. Ray, civilian aide to the Secretary of War, who is touring U.S. Army installations in the European theater, and he in turn had notified the department that he would look into the matter.

Soldiers (Italy)

## 28 Soldiers Arrested!

*The Courier*

## Overseas Unit Sent Home After Clash

*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
Sat. 12-7-46

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—The entire 838th Aviation Engineer Battalion, consisting of about 1,000 men, has been returned to the United States from Italy because some of its members were involved in a clash with white American soldiers in Caserta, it was learned here last Wednesday.

Twenty-eight members of the 838th Battalion were reported to be held in confinement at Livorno, Italy, as a result of the clash. A Red Cross worker, a Mrs. Mildred A. Fortson of Youngstown, Ohio, also was reported to have been taken into custody. The American Red Cross said last Wednesday, however, that she has returned to this country. She is the daughter of Mrs. Estelle Clark, also of Youngstown.

CLASH OVER WOMEN

According to information received here, the trouble began when 800 replacements were assigned to the 838th, which was stationed near Caserta.

Army Information and Education officers immediately set about arranging suitable recreational facilities for the troops within their camp in order to prevent their crowding into Caserta on leave. To carry out their arrangements, Italian women were transported from Caserta to take part in activities at the camp.

This plan worked well, it was reported, until a sudden change of officer personnel in the 838th took place. According to reports, the new white officers immediately barred the Italian women from attending affairs at the camp, and when the colored soldiers sought entertainment in Caserta a clash with white troops over the women followed.

BATTALION RETURNED  
AFTER REPORTER CLASH

The conflict reached a climax when white troops are alleged to have gone to their area after several fist fights, armed themselves, and returned led by their company officers.

The colored troops are reported to have gone to their area, broken into their supply room and obtained arms.

No report on the outcome of the battle was available, but immediately following the incident the battalion was placed aboard ship and returned to the United States. Members of the battalion said the outfit was returned to the States so suddenly that port authorities in this country had not been notified of the time of their arrival and the unit's ship was forced to wait in the harbor several days before the troops could embark.

The War Department admitted that the unit had been ordered back to the States, but would not comment on the cause. The 838th was overseas almost two years.



## British and Colored Troops Clash Near Tel Aviv; Six Hurt

*Washington Post, D.C.*  
*May 5-13-46*  
Jerusalem, May 12 (INS).—Five British troops and one Sengalese soldier were injured today in a clash between Britons and colored troops in the military camp at Tel Litwinsky, near Tel Aviv.

### Sabotage Threatened

Jerusalem, May 12 (UP).—A Jewish underground radio announcer today threatened Britain with a fierce sabotage campaign unless 100,000 Jews are admitted to the Holy Land immediately as recommended by the Palestine Inquiry report.

The broadcast said that Britain intended to hold its Palestine mandate "at all costs" to transfer Middle East bases to the Holy Land after withdrawing troops from Syria, Lebanon and Egypt.

"The Jewish resistance movement will do everything in its power to frustrate the transfer of British bases to Palestine as well as their maintenance here" unless the Jewish refugees are admitted, the announcer said.

Listeners said that the announcer, a new one spoke with a strong Russian accent.

The broadcast was looked upon as a departure from the usual policy of the Jewish resistance movement, which so far has concentrated on assisting illegal immigration. *May 5-13-46*

Meanwhile, an Arab higher committee spokesman said the Palestine question will be raised before the United Nations Security Council by the Syrian government as soon as possible.



# British Air Vets' Riot On Ship Laid to Intolerance

*ST. LOUIS ARCHIVES*  
*Missouri*  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, May 24—Serious rioting occurred aboard the liner Bergensfjord during the last days of the ship's journey here from England. The trouble was laid to intolerance of white British officers by Jamaican Negro royal air force troops released from the liner in the harbor here Friday.

"Bloomie", 24 year old air craftsman 1st class who had served as an RAF clerk for two years, told the following story: *721.*

"Tuesday night, when we were about 500 miles south of Kingston, some of our fellows had gone up on the passenger deck to get the air. A couple of English officers said that was no place for black men. The officers had guns and drew them and one of our fellows pulled a gun, too. One officer was creased on the cheek.

"Wednesday night there was another fight. A Norwegian crewman struck an RAF man and he pulled a gun on him. It was then that the fighting became general. The entire crew was armed with machine guns and the captain sent a distress call which brought the British corvette Ballinderry along side. They boarded us but were unable to quell the fighting". *5-21-46*

The 1,300 troops were taken from the ship under machine guns and artillery of the British Suffolk regiment and taken to Camp Gibraltar on the northern outskirts of Kingston. Several were placed in military custom. Three white men were wounded during the riot. Two hundred civilian passengers were imprisoned aboard during the four-day conflict.



# Army Probes Manila 'Riot'

*New York Amsterdam News*  
**Negro, White Troops Battle—Or Did They? Real Story Sought; Yet, It's Known That White Guard Killed Negro**

*new York, N.Y.*  
**MANILA**—(NNPA)—An Army inquiry into disorders involving Negro and white troops at nearby Quezon City on the night of January 7 got under way last Wednesday while eighty Negro soldiers were being held pending its outcome.

The incident was in no way connected with the series of soldier demonstrations here on January 6 and 7 over dissatisfaction with the Army's demobilization program.

Negroes and white troops engaged in a three-hour shooting fray after Private Crump of the 228th Quartermaster Salvage Company was shot to death by Sergeant Russell Brown, white, of the 521st Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company, when the colored soldier refused to halt while allegedly fleeing from a military depot guarded by the latter.

**Indiscriminate Firing**  
 The paper said when the Negro soldiers heard of Crump's death, they armed themselves and invaded the depot compound, their fire was answered by fire from the guards inside the compound. Lights in the compound were put out and sniping continued until midnight, the paper said, ceasing only with the arrival of military police.

An estimated 80 to 100 men of the 228th Quartermaster Salvage Collection Company participated in the affray. No one other than Crump was killed or injured, according to the latest reports.

Eighty of the alleged participants have been confined, and a perimeter was placed around the camp to prevent further disorders and to pick up the remainder of the individuals involved. *1-19-46*

**160 MP's Used**  
 Members of the Salvage Company, the authorities said, broke into their supply room and grabbed rifles, pistols and machine guns. They then charged the depot compound, firing wildly into the air.

Sixty military police, later bolstered by an additional 100, rushed to the scene and quelled the disorder without firing a shot.

Lieut. Col. T. R. Little, commanding officer of the 755th Military Police Battalion, estimated that 100 Negro soldiers took part in the shooting. He said there was no damage to the installation, indicating that the men had fired into the air.

"I would be surprised if the white guards fired, but I think what everybody did was take cover," he said.

The company area was placed under guard and weapons were recovered.

**How It "Started"**  
 According to the morning newspaper Daily Courier, Sergeant Brown shot and killed Crump when he saw him carrying away a bundle of Army issue clothing.

## Manila GIs Fight 3-Hour Racial Battle

Manila (Wednesday), Jan. 9 (U.P.)

A three-hour pitched battle with machineguns, carbines, pistols and hand grenades took place Monday night between American Negro and white soldiers in the suburbs of Manila, it was disclosed today. No casualties were reported.

The fight was precipitated when Sgt. Russell Brown, a guard at a quartermaster depot in Quezon City, shot and killed a Negro soldier he saw carrying away a bundle of GI clothing.

News of the shooting soon reached a nearby camp for Negro soldiers. The Negroes armed themselves and invaded the depot compound, it was reported, advancing in battle formation and shooting as they came.

### Two Grenades Thrown

The Negroes were met by a withering fire from white guards inside the compound which stopped their advance. Lights in the compound were shot out and sniping continued until midnight. The shooting ceased only when military police arrived. Every conceivable weapon was used in the

fight, from machine guns to pistols and at least two hand grenades were thrown during the height of the battle.

It was learned that a thorough investigation is being made.

**Same Old Story--U. S. Democracy in Practice**

## Manila Disorders Blamed on Army-Sponsored Segregation

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Last week Negro and white soldiers engaged in a gun fight near Manila which resulted in 90 Negroes being arrested. Prior to that disturbance, all accounts of a fight between Negro troops and Filipino guerillas were suppressed. Background of the explosive situation in Manila is revealed in this article by our recently returned war correspondent. *1-19-46*

By **BILLY ROWE**, Staff Correspondent  
*Pittsburgh Courier, Pa.*

I can understand the recent outbreaks in Manila which threw white and colored Americans against each other and colored Americans against Filipinos. It was the direct outcome of smoldering resentment on the part of the Negroes against discrimination and prejudice fostered by the whites and practiced by the Filipinos.

The pattern was cut when the first troops marched into the Capital City early in February and put into working form as soon as the shooting stopped.

I saw businesses to interest weary fighting men, woman-starved and jungle-happy spring up over night. So-called night clubs, bars and dance halls dotted every block. As they grew, so did segregation. At first there was nothing subtle about it and signs went up in many places telling Negroes flatly they were not wanted.

**ARMY FOSTERED 1-19-46**

### RACE SEGREGATION

In the face of this, several killings and many individual fights were recorded. Under the guise of attempting to prevent trouble, an Army move was started to put certain sections of the city off limits to both groups. The worst sections of the war-torn city were allotted to Negroes and around them were placed signs stating that the area was off limits to white soldiers, sailors and marines. The brain-child of a Filipino colonel who was graduated from West Point, the plan was greeted with great contempt and moral indignation on the part of Negroes. However, in Manila, one who was at the it was nipped in the bud by several war correspondents, both white and colored. *1-19-46*

With the induction of a new provost marshal the tension was somewhat relieved and he drafted an order making it unlawful for any place to discriminate. Finding a loop hole, the clubs which practiced a more flagrant form of segregation suddenly became private and only members were allowed to enter. There were never any colored members and those who attempted to enter were told that the books were closed. In such places, and those open to the general public, Negro soldiers and officers were beaten and thrown

out by white Americans. In one case a light complexioned Red Cross worker out with a colored officer had her finger broken when a white GI who resented the party, thinking that the lady in the case was white, threw a bottle at the officer. *1-19-46*

Aside from the various forms of discrimination, Filipinos given MP authority by the base commander always found reasons to get on Negro soldiers, notwithstanding that their job was only of local nature, not touching American soldiers. *1-19-46*

In August during a flare up between a white and colored truck driver, a Filipino MP lieutenant who attempted to intervene, was killed. The shooting was blamed on a Negro though no one actually knew who fired the shot. No arrest was made, but the highly emotional Filipinos started a drive to investigate the story myself, I was shot at by a Filipino Army officer MP who flatly stated that all Negroes are bad and he refused to waste time with them.

**SITUATION EXPLOSIVE**  
 In such a manner the resentment grew on both sides, with neither willing to take chances. Before I left for Tokyo I saw a tired Negro in a land apart, which he had worked, fought and risked his life, like others, to liberate. With such a feeling the past outbreaks were Constituting a rather demoralized peasantry and servant class, the average Filipino is generally lacking in the basic understanding of what the war was all about, or from what he was freed. Only a few intelligent ones among them consider the Negro soldier as a first-class American. *1-19-46*

Though only the fights between them and the Negro soldiers have been recorded, the Filipinos are also

disliked by a dominant number of white American soldiers. All of them show a great deal of moral indignation over their faults and the petty thievery of the destitute. The city of Manila is overrun with crime and filled with vice. These things, coupled with thousands of disgruntled soldiers, is virtually a powder keg. Unless the authorities step in with a firm policy immediately, the recent clashes of the whites-Negroes-Filipinos, the blood of men who died in World War II for the cause of democracy will be joined by those who will go down in fiercer allied riots.

## Start Probe On 'Battle' Between White, Negro GIs

*New Orleans, La. Louisiana Weekly*  
 Manila, P. I., Jan. 16.—An investigation into the "battle" between white and Negro soldiers here last week at Quezon City, following the fatal shooting of a Negro soldier has been launched, according to army headquarters.

Staff Sgt. Russell Brown is reported to have shot the soldier, still unidentified by army authorities, when he attempted to escape after being caught pilfering an army depot for GI clothing. Negro soldiers, all mates of the slain serviceman, did protest by firing into the air, army officials disclosed, but said they had no in-

tention to harm any one. Military authorities also denied the shooting led to a race riot. Military police soon quelled the disturbance, they said, but the incident is being investigated.



# Eighty QM Salvage Company Soldiers Held During Probe Of Manila Fight

Norfolk, Va.

Journal-Examiner

MANILA—(NNPA) Eighty of 100 members of the 228th Quartermaster Salvage Company, who participated in disorders involving Negro and white troops near Manila, are being held pending the outcome of an Army inquiry.

The incident was in no way connected with the series of soldier demonstrations here on January 6 and 7 over dissatisfaction with the Army's demobilization program.

Colored and white troops engaged in a three-hour shooting fray after Private Crump of the 228th Quartermaster Salvage Company was shot to death by Sergeant Russell Brown, white of the 521st Quartermaster Salvage Repair Company, when the colored soldier refused to halt while allegedly fleeing from a military depot guarded by the latter.

When members of Crump's company learned of his death, they allegedly broke into the company's supply room, secured arms and ammunition, and then started to look for the white guards. When none was found, it was said, they started indiscriminate firing until quelled by the military police.

An estimated 60 to 100 men of the 228th Quartermaster Salvage Collection Company participated in the affray. No one other than Crump was killed or injured, according to the latest reports.

Eighty of the allegedly participants have been confined, and a perimeter was placed around the camp to prevent further disorders and to pick up the remainder of the individuals involved.

Members of the Salvage Company, the authorities said, broke into their supply room and grabbed rifles, pistols and machine guns. They then charged the depot compound, firing wildly into the air.

Sixty military police, later bolstered by an additional 100, rushed to the scene and quelled the disorder without firing a shot.

Lieut. Col. T. R. Little, commanding officer of the 755th Military Police Battalion, estimated that 100 colored soldiers

took part in the shooting. He said there was no damage to the installation, indicating that the men fired into the air.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the white guards fired, but I think what everybody did was take cover," he said.

The company area was placed under guard and weapons were recovered.

Lieut. Terrance McLaurin of the Military Police described an exploit in which he was the hero. Armed with a sub-machine gun, he said he stumbled into a ditch in the darkness and saw five crouching colored soldiers with carbines.

"Drop those guns or I'll mow you down," McLaurin said he told the soldiers, who obeyed immediately.

According to the morning newspaper Daily News Courier, Sergeant Brown shot and killed Crump when he saw him carrying away a bundle of Army issue clothing.

The paper said when the colored soldiers heard of Crump's death, they armed themselves and invaded the depot compound, their fire was answered by fire from the guards inside the compound.

Lights in the compound were put out and sniping continued until midnight, the paper said, ceasing only with the arrival of military police.

## Negro, White GIs Battle In Manila

By United Press

MANILA, Jan. 9.—The morning newspaper Daily Courier reported today that a three-hour pitched battle with machineguns, carbines, pistols and hand grenades took place Monday night between American Negro and white soldiers in the suburbs of Manila.

No casualties were reported in the battle.

The fight was precipitated when Sgt. Russel Brian, a guard at a quartermaster depot in Quezon City in the suburbs of Manila, shot and killed a Negro soldier he saw carrying away a bundle of GI clothing.

News of the shooting soon reached a nearby camp for Negro soldiers. The Negroes armed themselves and invaded the depot compound, it was reported, advancing in battle formation and shooting as they came.

The Negroes were met by a withering fire from white guards inside the compound which stopped their advance. Lights in the compound were shot out and sniping continued until midnight.

The shooting ceased only when military police arrived. Weapons used in the fight ranged from machine-guns to pistols.



# 135 Overseas Men Taste Dixie Law

Baltimore, Md.  
War Department Begins

Probe of Hooliganism

Sept. 9-21-46  
DENIED COUNSEL

Three Groups of Cops

Gang Up on Soldiers

By JOHN H. M'CRAY  
(Special to the AFRO)

FLORENCE, S.C.—War Department officials began an investigation here over the week end of terrorist tactics on the part of civilian, military and railroad policemen against 135 overseas veterans, whose chief offense apparently was that they were not born with white skins.

The men, fresh from foreign battlefields and bedecked in campaign ribbons and service stripes, got a taste of what they had really fought for when they were yanked from among about 100 others, marched one mile through Florence streets to the city police station and, 24 hours later, without counsel, fined a total of \$2,531.00.

Local authorities claimed the men had been disorderly on a troop train which stopped here briefly, en route to Atlanta from Fort Bragg, N.C. The soldiers denying this charge said the officers, civilians, railroad and military, had assaulted them.

Two Fined \$100 Each

Two of the men, Jesse Hunter of Tupelo, Miss., and Walter Harris Jr. of Canton, Miss., were fined \$100 each. Mercer Williams of Birmingham, Ala., and Charles Fletcher, Chattanooga, Tenn., were fined \$52. The others were fined \$17 each and given the alternative of 15 days on the Florence chain-gang.

While Military Police started the battle preceding the arrests, they walked out of the picture completely and military authorities said after an investigation, both by the Fourth Service Command headquarters in Atlanta and MP's stationed at Fort Jackson, that no military charges would be preferred.

The soldiers, all of whom were either discharged at Fort Bragg a few hours before and were en route home, or were on their way to separation centers from Atlanta, Ga., were booked on charges of resisting arrest, interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty, drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Mayor Assesses Fines

Jack D. Burks of Clio, Ala., arrested before the battle royal

started, was fined \$17 for being drunk. Walter Daniels, Spellman, Ga., who pleaded not guilty, was fined anyway by Mayor R. F. Zeigler who acted in place of City Recorder William H. Smith at the special court session Thursday night. *The Afro-American*

Authorities said that after the Atlantic Coast Line train left Fayetteville, N.C., they had telephoned ahead to Florence MP's to meet the train and take off three or four rowdies. The MP's boarded the train here on arrival and attempted to arrest four men pointed out by railroad officers.

Soldiers said that when the men and buddies attempted to explain mistaken identity, they were set upon by club-swinging MP's and train officers and later, by civilian offices and whites who rushed in.

Two Army officers listed as Major H. T. Bass, Jackson, Miss., and Capt. William C. Thompson, Chattanooga, also joined against the soldiers and with several MP's and other officers, were stretched out on the ground.

Holds Riot Gun

Railroad Policeman H. L. Swilley suddenly appeared with a riot gun, threatening to "blow the heads off the first black s--- of a b---- that moves," and together with the other officers, divided the soldiers, practically all of whom had swarmed out to the platform, at random into two groups. *Baltimore, Md.*

Those picked as involved were marched to jail between jeering white crowds about 9 o'clock, half an hour after their train arrived. Sixty-five of them were locked in the city jail and 70 in the county jail.

Many of the soldiers suffered injured heads at the hands of officers but neither they nor the policemen were seriously hurt. No shots were fired.

Local authorities said all but one of the men pleaded guilty, which drew a quick denial from the men on release. A few admitted, however, they had pleaded guilty, but explained they had done so only to get home quick and "get out of this stinking place." *Sat. 9-21-46*

Several of them said they had spurned a request for trial by jury and local legal advice for the reason that "it would not have made any difference, anyway." Some of the men had been overseas and in the Army for four years.

Question Mayor's Statement

Leaders were quick to question Mayor Zeigler's statement to the four men fined most heavily. Mayor Zeigler is quoted as having said: "You boys ought to know how to act. You can't come back to a city and try to take it over. You can't take over this country just because you have been overseas fighting." After fining the

men he added: "Let this be a lesson to you."

Leaders said the evidence presented against the men failed to show that they had made any attempts to "take over" Florence. One man said, "It was all between them and the railroad people. It could have been settled by them without city interference."

An eyewitness to the fracas at the ACL station said railroad officers, who have won a notorious reputation for mistreatment of colored passengers moving through here, were largely responsible for the affair, adding that the affair appeared settled until railroad officers began beating innocent men about the head with their clubs. *Cite Other Incidents*

During the war years, numerous incidents involving railroad officers and colored ACL passengers have been handled here. In two instances, passengers have filed suits against the railroad, one of which was backed by the local NAACP branch.

Military authorities, disputing the "riot" angle played up by South Carolina daily papers, pointed to an unpublished arrest here two weeks ago of 125 white sailors who were removed from a North-bound ACL train on charges of being disorderly. Fifty of these men were placed in the stockades at Fort Jackson, they said.

Thursday night, a day after the mass arrests and while Mayor Zeigler was delivering his accusation to the men, four other colored soldiers were removed from another ACL train headed for Atlanta from Fort Bragg and charged with being disorderly. They had been discharged and were en route home to their families.

Spectator Shot

At the same time, police reported that Charles Green, 49-year-old Lynchburg, S.C., man, had been shot while sitting near the railroad Thursday night, allegedly by someone on "a colored troop train."

Green was reported in a serious condition in the McLeod Hospital. Colored newsmen, trying to get a list of the convicted men from the police blotter, ran into a stone wall. A desk sergeant held that MP's had the list. Told the city had brought the charges and levied the fines, the sergeant red-dened, turned around and left them standing.

Efforts to get the list from Mayor Zeigler were referred to Chief J. A. Price, who failed to meet the men at an agreed upon time. Local newsmen reported, however, they (white) had no difficulty in getting access to the blotter.

Local officers involved in the arrests include, in addition to Price, C. H. Rigby, W. C. Wiggins, L. T. McLean, R. E. Chapman and Ralph

Parker. Also Railroad Officers Swilley, J. H. Hatchell M. F. Quick and Joe Clyde.

Military officers participating included Capt. J. A. Dorsey, Cpl. A. A. Iacone, Rochester, N.Y.; Sgt. B. L. Miller, Savanna, Ill.; S/Sgt. Aaron Anderson, Darlington, S.C.; Sgt. O. E. Everson, Damascus, Ga., and a Sergeant Wilson.

## Fine or Jail

## Choice Given Negro Troops

Florence, Sept. 12—(AP)—One hundred and thirty Negro soldiers, most of them overseas veterans, were sentenced to 15 days in jail or \$17 fines tonight by Mayor R. F. Zeigler in recorder's court for their part in a melee at the Florence railroad station last night.

The soldiers, many of them sergeants and corporals, were charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty. All of them pleaded innocent, but none asked for a jury trial.

Sgt. B. L. Miller, a military policeman, testified that he and another MP had taken four soldiers into custody because they were creating a disturbance.

He said he and his partner scuffled with the four and were knocked down.

H. F. Swilley, an Atlantic Coast Line Railroad policeman, testified that the 130 men were advancing on the MP's and the four soldiers when he got a riot gun, faced the crowd and ordered them to back up or "I'll blow everyone's brains out."

The four soldiers who had been taken into custody first all pleaded guilty at hearings today. Walter Harris, Jr., of Canton, Miss., and Jesse Hunter of Tupelo, Miss., were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$100 fines. Mercer Williams of Birmingham and Charles Fletcher of Chattanooga were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$52 fines.

In sentencing the four, the mayor said:

"You boys ought to know how to act. You can't come back to a city and try to take it over. You can't take over this country just because you've been overseas fighting."

A fifth Negro, Jack D. Burks of Clio, Ala., was sentenced to 17 days in jail of a \$15 fine for being drunk. Swilley testified that Burks had no part in the melee as he had taken him into custody earlier.

Police Chief J. A. Price said the soldiers would be kept overnight and given their choice tomorrow of paying their fines or remaining in jail. He said no one was hurt in the disturbance last night.

The soldiers were en route from Fort Bragg, N. C., to Atlanta.

## NEGRO SOLDIERS

## ARE CONVICTED

### Twenty-Six Guilty on Charges In Connection With Rail Station Fight

FLORENCE, S. C. Sept. 12.—(AP)—Twenty-six Negro soldiers were given their choice of paying fines of \$17 each or spending 15 days in jail here by Mayor R. F. Zeigler in Recorder's Court today when he convicted them of participating in a melee at the Florence Railroad Station last night.

The 26 were the first of 130 Negroes, most of them overseas veterans, to receive hearings on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty.

The soldiers pleaded innocent, but did not ask for a trial. Mayor Zeigler, who was presiding in the court, gave them opportunities to make statements and then pronounced them guilty and sentenced them.

The remainder of the 130 were to receive hearings tonight.

Sgt. B. L. Miller, a military policeman, testified that he and another M. P. had taken four soldiers into custody because they were creating a disturbance.

He said he and his partner scuffled with the four and were knocked down.

H. F. Swilley, an Atlantic Coast Line Railroad policeman, testified that the 130 men were advancing on the M. P.'s and the four soldiers when he got a riot gun, faced the crowd and ordered them to back up or "I'll blow everyone's brains out."

The four soldiers who had been taken into custody first all pleaded guilty at hearings today. Walter Harris, Jr., of Canton, Miss., and Jesse Hunter of Tupelo, Miss., were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$100 fines. Mercer Williams of Birmingham and Charles Fletcher of Chattanooga were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$52 fines.

Police Chief J. A. Price said the soldiers would be kept overnight and given their choice tomorrow of paying their fines or remaining in jail. He said no one was hurt in the disturbance last night.

## 135 Negro Soldiers Jailed In Disorder

Florence, (S. C.) Sept. 12—(AP)—

A railway station melee in which military police were reported to have swung their blackjacks free after being jailed. Twenty-six Negro soldiers in the Negro soldiers, most of them overseas veterans, were charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty. The soldiers were sentenced to 15 days in jail or \$17 fines. The remainder of the 130 were to receive hearings tonight. The soldiers were given their choice of paying fines of \$17 each or spending 15 days in jail here by Mayor R. F. Zeigler in Recorder's Court today when he convicted them of participating in a melee at the Florence Railroad Station last night. The soldiers pleaded innocent, but did not ask for a trial. Mayor Zeigler, who was presiding in the court, gave them opportunities to make statements and then pronounced them guilty and sentenced them. The remainder of the 130 were to receive hearings tonight. Sgt. B. L. Miller, a military policeman, testified that he and another M. P. had taken four soldiers into custody because they were creating a disturbance. He said he and his partner scuffled with the four and were knocked down. H. F. Swilley, an Atlantic Coast Line Railroad policeman, testified that the 130 men were advancing on the M. P.'s and the four soldiers when he got a riot gun, faced the crowd and ordered them to back up or "I'll blow everyone's brains out." The four soldiers who had been taken into custody first all pleaded guilty at hearings today. Walter Harris, Jr., of Canton, Miss., and Jesse Hunter of Tupelo, Miss., were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$100 fines. Mercer Williams of Birmingham and Charles Fletcher of Chattanooga were sentenced to 30 days in jail or \$52 fines. Police Chief J. A. Price said the soldiers would be kept overnight and given their choice tomorrow of paying their fines or remaining in jail. He said no one was hurt in the disturbance last night. 135 Negro Soldiers Jailed In Disorder. Florence, (S. C.) Sept. 12—(AP)—



# 135 Negro Soldiers Riot At Florence

Florence, Sept. 11—(AP)—One hundred and thirty-five Southern Negro soldiers, most of them recently returned from overseas, were arrested here tonight and lodged in two local jails after Police Chief J. A. Price said they participated in a mob fight with police officers at the railroad station.

According to Chief Price's account, 130 of the soldiers, milling about the station while the train on which they were traveling stopped for a few minutes, attacked en masse six military policemen in an attempt to free five fellow passengers the MPs said they took into custody because of disorderly conduct on the train.

The fight started about 8 p. m., Price said, but it was not until almost midnight before the situation was brought completely under control and all of the soldiers were lodged in jail cells to await hearings before city recorder tomorrow on charges of "disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and interfering with an officer in discharging his duty."

When the military police resisted the mob attack, swinging their blackjacks to ward off the Negroes, several were knocked down by the oncoming crowd which continued its attack until riot guns and the assistance of railway police and local police officers brought the riot to an end, Price said.

The soldiers then were lined up and marched single file through the streets of Florence to the jail about a mile from the station.

The soldiers were traveling on an Atlantic Coast Line car. Many of them already had been discharged and the rest were headed for separation centers, their records showed.

**135 Negro Soldiers**  
*The News*  
**Jailed After Battle**  
*Birmingham, Ala.*  
**With Military Police**  
*Thurs. 9-12-46*

## Blackjacks Fly As Men Attempt To Free Pals From Army Cops In Depot

said the men resisted arrest and knocked him and his partner down. Two of the four men first arrested were given sentences of 30 days or \$100 fines and the other two were given 30 days or \$52 fines.

# Soldiers Await Hearing After Florence Riot

FLORENCE, Sept. 12.—(AP)—Over a hundred and thirty-five Negro soldiers, most of them from the South, were lodged in Florence county jail today awaiting hearing before the city recorder on the counts that Chief of Police J. Price said grew out of a mob fight at the railroad station here last night.

Price said the Negroes, most of them recently returned to the state from overseas, were arrested about 11:30 p. m. after military police, local officers and railway policemen with the use of riot guns quelled a fight that started between a soldier train passengers and military police when the MPs arrested five negroes on disorderly conduct charges.

According to the police chief's count, 130 of the soldiers mill about the station during a rest stop of the Atlantic Coast Line train that were riding attacked en masse by MPs in an attempt to free the arrested Negroes who were fellow passengers.

## Negro Soldiers Fined After Carolina Fracas

FLORENCE, S. C., Sept. 13.—(P)—Most of the 135 Negro soldiers arrested here Wednesday night after a melee at the railroad station resumed their journey to Atlanta today after being fined in Recorder's Court for "disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and interfering with officers in the discharge of their duty."

- All but four of the men were given their choice of \$17 fines or 15 days in jail by Mayor R. F. Zeigler who presided in Recorder's Court last night.

Police Chief J. A. Price said most of them decided to pay the fines. He said the ones who did not would be turned over to military authorities if still in the Army. Some already had been discharged.

Some already had been discharged from service and others were on their way to separation centers. One hundred and thirty of the soldiers, many of them wearing combat and occupation ribbons, pleaded innocent but did not ask for jury trials.

Sgt. B. L. Miller, a military policeman, testified that the trouble started when he and another M.P. attempted to take four Negroes into

Chief of Police stressed that the situation was not a razor-thin ground, almost

**Aprons Are Found**

Thursday several... and one pistol were... the pail, believed by... been dropped there... Wednesday night... general whiskey bottles... were found along the... the railroad station... all indications liquor... of the whole in...

...er who  
...military  
...iceman.  
...s were blade  
...ng with outsid  
...elp re- to ha  
...lood-soldie  
...d man-  
...on was  
... from  
...eached jail.  
...eported

to free five of their number had been arrested by policemen and a railroad policeman. Although two of the M.P.s knocked to the ground along with a major who attempted to restore order, there was no blood shed, due mostly to the cooperation in which the situation was handled.

City police Thursday searched the baggage of the men and



56a 1946

# Charge Negro Soldier's Death To Jimcrow Act

*Daily Worker*  
*New York, N.Y.*

Special to the Daily Worker

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 23.—An Army report on the killing of a Negro soldier at Geiger Field near here July 17 was branded "a masterpiece of evasion, distortion and plain untruth" today by the Communist Party here.

Responsibility for the Negro's death lay with Jimcrow and discrimination at the field, the Communist Party statement, signed by chairman William L. Cumming, said.

The soldier, Pvt. Samuel Hicks, was found dead on a roadside at the airfield after a series of boxing matches between white and Negro soldiers. A race riot was underway almost immediately after. Negro troops were tear-gassed into submission—after the situation had calmed off. *Sub 8-24-46*

In his report to Rep. Horan, Col. Price mentioned a hit-and-run possibility, although no injuries except one on the right side of the head from a blunt object were found on Pvt. Hicks' body.

The Communist Party statement, pointing out it had declared a month ago that the Army would whitewash the case, called for intervention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, saying the Army had "proven incompetent."

Soldiers (Washington)



# Veterans Get Total of 85 Years for Rioting

*Afro-American - Baltimore, Md.*



Three of these former GI's, prisoners at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks in Milwaukee, Wisc., where they were serving time after dishonorable discharges for infractions of Army regulations, received additional sentences totaling 85 years at a general court-martial last week. The other two were exonerated. The extra punishment is the result of a riot at the barracks Feb. 9 which began as a protest over food and resulted in a sixth prisoner being killed. The men were convicted of violation of the 68th, 89th and 93rd articles of war involving mutiny, rioting, and assault of officers and guards. Left to right, Andrew A. McGhee, 21, Charleston, W.Va., who was exonerated; Leroy Byrd, 21, Jackson, Miss., 30 years; Frank L. Weatherspoon, 21, Chicago, exonerated; Samuel Jones, 22, Lake City, Fla., 40 years; and Darry Coleman, 24, Birmingham, Ala., 15 years. The National Urban League has asked a War Department review of the court-martial proceedings.

4-27-46

4-27-46





**CROWD PROTESTS NEGROES IN HOUSING PROJECT.**—These men are upsetting an automobile driven by a Negro, Kenneth Kennedy, at a Federal housing project on the Chicago Southside where several former GI families became "squatters" recently. Anger of the men was aroused because Negro families have moved into the project. (AP Wirephoto.)

## Chicago Police to Protect Negroes In Housing Row

*The Courier-Journal*  
Louisville, Ky. Sun. 12-8-46  
Chicago, Dec. 7 (AP)—Mayor Edward J. Kelly today

promised continued police protection, if necessary, for families of two Negro war veterans whose admission to a public housing project has caused two days of sporadic demonstrations by white neighbors.

As a large detail of police spent a quiet day patrolling the Airport Homes project, Mayor Kelly told newsmen the two families would remain "and they will be given all the police protection they need to keep them there."

### In White Neighborhood.

The Mayor's comments followed receipt of a protest from the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stating its membership was "thoroughly aroused over the un-American acts" at the project. The association added that "only stern measures will prevent serious trouble in the Negro community."

The Mayor said the city's Negro families had "handled themselves like real citizens" in refraining from participating in the disorders. The project is situated in a white neighborhood in which no Negroes reside.

Originally, nine Negro families were assigned by the Chicago Housing Authority to the veter-

ans' project, along with 91 white families. Demonstrations, in which stones were hurled, windows smashed, cars overturned and several policemen were injured, marked the admission of the first two Negro families. Subsequently, the Chicago Public Housing Authority announced the seven remaining eligible Negro families had withdrawn their names.

## Mob Threatens Woman Attorney

*The Afro-American*  
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 12-21-46

**Police Fail to Rebuke or Arrest Taunters**  
**SITUATION TENSE**  
**Vets Map Plans to**

**Extend Housing Fight**

NEW YORK — Hurling ugly epithets and threats at her, a hysterical mob of race-baiting Chicagoans closed in on Mrs. Marian

Wynn Perry, NAACP attorney, on Dec. 9, when she accompanied Thurgood Marshall to the recently completed Airport Homes in Chicago's South Side.

The mob had gathered to protest the arrival of veterans and their families to take up occupancy in the apartments assigned them by the Chicago Housing Authority in the tax-supported project set up for Chicago veterans.

### Threateners Unrebuked

Mrs. Perry's appeals to the police for protection were met with the request to "Keep moving."

No action was taken against the persons who were threatening her — in fact, the police treated her as an outsider and did not seem to feel any compunction to rebuke or arrest her antagonists.

Mrs. Perry and Mr. Marshall are in close contact with housing authorities and with civic groups anxious to prevent a recurrence of violence against tenants in this and future city housing projects.

They are giving legal advice to the attorneys of the two veterans who braved possible harm to move into their apartments on Dec. 10, although five other veterans withdrew from the project.

### Vets Map Legal Action

Meanwhile, a program of legal action growing out of the recent racial flareup at the project, has been drawn up by a group of lawyers under sponsorship of United

Negro and Allied Veterans of America. *The Afro-American*

The program includes suit for damages against the city, for damage to the moving van which brought one of the veterans' furniture to the project and the lodging of criminal charges against members of the white mob before Air Port Homes, especially the ring-leaders. *Baltimore, Md.*

Other organizations with legal committees are invited to assist the UNAVA's group because the explosive nature of the situation here is recognized and the success in solving it will set a pattern for other cities dealing with a similar post-war housing problem. *Sat. 12-21-46*

## 8 HURT IN CHICAGO IN RIOT OVER HOMES

*The Times*  
New York, N.Y. Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—Eight persons were injured by rocks thrown during a riotous demonstration today at the Airport Homes Housing Development on the South Side, where 200 persons gathered as a truck arrived with the household goods of two Negro war veterans.

The disorder was the latest chapter in the turbulent history of the project, in which 55 dwelling units recently were seized by veterans who refused to budge until the Chicago Housing Administration took six of them to court.

A detail of 100 policemen kept the newest outbreak under control by spanking angry housewives with their clubs and barring all traffic from the vicinity of the project.

The moving truck became stuck in the mud before it reached the Negro veterans' units, but the household goods were carried into the homes by a group of ministers who were on hand because of advance rumors of trouble.

Six of those struck by flying rocks were policemen. Two newspaper photographers also were hit, and the camera of one was damaged. *Fri. 12-6-46*

An automobile in which was Kenneth Kennedy, national commander of the United Negro Veterans of America, was overturned by members of the crowd, but police rescued him unharmed.

The new tenants, John H. Fort, 29 years old, and Letholian Waddell, 20, were not harmed. They said the disorder would not deter them from occupying the homes to which they were assigned and that they would "stay to fight this to a finish."

Police said most of the demonstrators were from the surrounding neighborhood where homes valued up to \$10,000, \$12,000 and \$15,000 have been erected but that white tenants of the project also were in the crowd.

The CHA said nine Negro veterans at one time were assigned to project homes, but that five had

decided against risking the ill feeling of neighbors.

## ANTI-NEGRO VIOLENCE RENEWED IN CHICAGO

*The Times*  
New York, N.Y. CHICAGO, Dec. 7 (AP)—For the second consecutive night large details of police remained on patrol at a South Side public housing project after a new outbreak of fighting between police and white persons who have protested the occupancy of apartments by two Negro families.

Six white persons and three policemen suffered minor injuries in last night's demonstrations as police swung their night clubs after rocks were thrown and attempts were made to overturn a police squad car. There were no Negroes at the scene.

During the skirmishes unidentified men set fire to a wooden cross four feet high in a vacant lot across from the project erected for war veterans. It covers a two-block square area at Sixtieth Street and Keeler Avenue, a district of small houses and duplex apartments occupied by white families. *Sun. 12-8-46*

The two Negro families moved their belongings into the apartments assigned to them by the Chicago Housing Authority within the last two days but they have not stayed overnight. However, Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the agency, said the two Negro war veterans had decided to stay in the project. She said seven other Negroes on the eligible list had decided against moving into the 186-unit project.

Telegrams sent yesterday to Attorney General Tom Clark and to Mayor Edgar J. Kelly, of Chicago, by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, requested that immediate Federal and local action be taken to avert further disorders.

"It is clearly evident that some subversive organization is back of mob action," said Mr. White. "We, therefore, vigorously request that FBI immediately investigate the situation, and take whatever action is appropriate." *12-8-46*

## No Jim Crow in Chicago

*The News and Courier*  
In Chicago the other day riot broke out when 11 negro families were attempting to enter and to dwell in houses of a project. White Chicagoans resisted. Nine of the negroes withdrew their applications. The Mayor, Mr. Kelly, has promised police protection to the two negro families. From this are the interferences: first, some of the white people of Chicago strenuously object to negroes dwelling "in their midst"; second, the mayor and police will strenuously protect negroes living among the white people, in houses of a project. From this discontented negroes in Mississippi and Louisiana will reason that their right to live in Chicago among the white people will be maintained by Mayor Kelly, the "Democrat." The

Telling police about the interference with his efforts to sell the building regardless of prejudice, Stoczynski said, "I fought with colored men in the Navy and we are all equals. I intend to keep putting up signs until the building is sold." *12-7-46*

*Navy Veteran Defies Prejudice of Whites*  
CHICAGO — (ANP) — Defying white neighbors who splattered ink on a sign he erected on his apartment building which read, "I have no racial disputes. Will sell to anyone," Edward Stoczynski, 25, Navy veteran, put up three more larger signs with the same message. *Sat.*

*Jim Crow is Officially Forbidden*  
Officially, *Charles J. C.*



# Cops, Vets, Labor Union Members Roll Back Mob

Teen-Agers Ape Nazi Youth as 1800 Adults

Spew Hate on Pearl Harbor's Anniversary

**Sat. 12-14-46**  
CHICAGO (ANP)—The burning of a fiery cross in front of the Airport Homes housing project here, Dec. 6, on the second evening after two veterans and their families had moved in, highlighted the fight of Chicago veterans to find suitable homes for themselves.

The cross-burning, participated in by a group of teen-agers in the center of a crowd of 1800 whites, on the eve of Pearl Harbor's fifth anniversary, availed nothing, however, in preventing democratic tenancy of the recently completed project, erected for veterans.

On the previous day, an estimated mob of 1,000 whites went down to defeat at the project, as its members made a determined effort to block veterans from moving into the homes in accordance with the non-discriminatory policy of the Chicago Housing Authority.

## Determined to Stay

John R. Forts and his wife, and Letholin Waddell, his wife and 18-month-old son, aided by police, labor union members and veterans' groups, took up residence in the project despite opposition of the screaming, impassioned mob.

Forts fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned two battle stars in Europe. Waddell served in the Pacific. They were not in their apartments during the cross burning episode, but are determined to face the risks of fighting for their homes here, as well as they did abroad.

## Mayor, Leaders Confer

Further violence is anticipated when two more veterans move their families into the project at one o'clock on Monday.

Thurgood Marshall and Mrs. Marian Wynn Perry, NAACP lawyers, arrived here Sunday and conferred with Mayor Edward Kelly and other city officials Monday, and wired Federal officials requesting prompt action, since the local situation is similar to violence which caused the Detroit riots in 1943.

## 400 Police Guard Vets

On Dec. 5 on orders from Mayor Edward J. Kelly, 400 policemen were called out to enforce the CHA's order to permit all veterans, regardless of race or color, to move into the project on the basis of greatest need.

Fanatic white housewives formed the nucleus of the mob that attacked the police, including Police Lt. Anthony De Grazio of the Chi-

cago Lawn station, who was hit on the temple by a stone.

Police retorted by using night sticks on the irate women, then formed a protective cordon around the project. Stones began to fly when the two veterans and their families appeared with their belongings, but they moved in.

## Alderman Blamed for Strike

Responsibility for the racial demonstration has been placed upon Alderman Michael P. Hogan of the 13th Ward, who is said to have incited the racial sentiment of white residents in behalf of big real estate interests.

He led an earlier demonstration at the City Hall to block veterans of the United Negro and Allied Veterans of America was riding.

An automobile belonging to Homer Jack, executive secretary of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, was also overturned. Applications in the face of rising tension in the area, she added.

Included among those who backed colored veterans' rights to share the veterans' housing were four white clergymen, who not only helped move their belongings into the homes but tried vainly to quiet the hysterical white mob.

## Police Resist Mob

The assurance that they would be given police protection was vindicated as officers kept a cordon of nearly 365 men thrown around the project during the next day.

Three of the policemen and a civilian were injured on Dec. 6, when the crowd of 1800 that gathered some minutes after the cross was burned, attempted to turn over a police squad car.

The incident occurred in front of the project office, where the major share of the police detailed to the area stood shoulder to shoulder between the crowd and the two-block square housing area.

## No Arrests Made

Police mismanagement of the situation was charged by Charles Liebman, Civil Liberties Union attorney, because the ring-leaders of the demonstration were not arrested.

At the time of the cross-burning incident, neither the Forts nor the Waddells were at home, having temporarily left their apartments under police escort earlier that afternoon.

# Negroes in Chicago Get Pledge of Police Aid

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—Mayor Edward J. Kelly yesterday

promised continued police protection to the families of two Negro veterans who have been the targets of several anti-Negro demonstrations in the vicinity of the Air Port Homes housing project they recently moved into.

Kelly said the families would remain and would get "all the police protection necessary to keep them there."

The project is situated in a neighborhood previously barred to Negro residents. Originally nine Negro families were assigned by the Chicago Housing Authority to the veteran's project, along with 91 white families. Immediately upon the occupancy of the first two Negro families, anti - Negro demonstrations broke out in which stones were hurled, windows smashed, cars overturned, several police injured. Subsequently the housing authorities stated that the other seven Negro families had withdrawn their applications.

On one occasion, Kenneth Kennedy, National Commander of the United Negro and Allied Veterans was jeered and cursed by a mob as he left the project grounds, where he had been observing the situation for UNAVA.

The Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People wired Kelly Friday that its membership was "thoroughly aroused over the un-American acts" at the project, and declared, "Only stern measures will prevent serious trouble in the Negro community."

## Mayor Assures Vet Protection

Hits Race Violence  
In Chicago Housing  
**Sat. 11-30-46**

Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago assured Negro veterans full police protection in the occupation of public housing authorized by the Chicago Housing Authority, following the threat of mob violence last week when a Negro ex-soldier attempted to move in the "all white" Airport Homes project, and was forced out.

A delegation of Negro and white CIO, veteran and civic leaders, led by Kenneth C. Kennedy, national commander of the United Negro

and Allied Veterans of America, met with the Mayor early last week and requested that he issue the statement to be followed by concrete action.

Mayor Kelly said that regardless of the sentiments of a few people "homes are, and will continue to be available to veterans and their families without regard to race, creed or color." In reference to the Airport Homes in the Southwest Side, the Mayor added

"As I understand it, the selection of families for occupancy is made by the Chicago Housing Authority on the basis of need, with due attention to the order in which the applications are received. The City of Chicago will support this policy and will provide full police protection to all veterans who are authorized by the Chicago Housing Authority to occupy the Airport Homes, or any other public housing project."

In addition, the Commissioner of Police right now is working out a course of special training for members of the police department in order to insure the democratic and impartial handling of all incidents in the future involving racial, religious and national minorities, so that all law-abiding citizens may be assured of their right to live peaceably anywhere in Chicago."

Mayor Kelly concluded saying, "People from all parts of the world—regardless of race, religion or national origin—have contributed to make Chicago the great city that it is today."

## MAJOR RACE RIOT IN CHICAGO SEEN

Saul D. Alinsky Says His City  
Is on Verge of Serious Clash

of Negroes and Whites  
**New York, N. Y.**

Chicago is on the verge of a major race riot involving Negroes and whites, Saul D. Alinsky, co-founder of that city's Back of the Yards Council, declared here yesterday at the first meeting of the newly formed Commission on Community Organization of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Describing the situation as "the worst spot we've been in for years," Mr. Alinsky said the neighborhood of 120,000 persons behind the stockyards would be "the powder keg" if a large riot should be touched off. The Back of the Yards Council is organized as a community

agency in the area. Mr. Alinsky reported that the group was taking extraordinary measures to nip any outbreak in the bud.

The visitor was one of four community workers who reported to the commission on social welfare projects at a meeting in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The commission is under the chairmanship of G. Howland Shaw, president of the New York Welfare Council. The group will resume sessions at 9:15 A. M. today to consider a definite program and community projects of its own.

Chicago's current tension exploded Monday into an outbreak of stoning that required 100 policemen to quell. A crowd of 100 persons hurled rocks at a truck moving the furniture of a Negro war veteran into a housing project near the Chicago airport. The project was the scene of several neighborhood demonstrations last week.

## Occupancy in Project

The tension was attributed by Mr. Alinsky to local resentment against any occupancy of units in the housing project by Negroes. Only one or two Negro families remain, he said, the others having withdrawn under intimidation.

The Back of the Yards area was described as a "no man's land" between the housing project and the stockyards, where about half of the workers were said to be Negroes. In this area the Chicago race riot of 1919 developed. Thousands of Negroes pass through it to and from work.

Under the Back of the Yards Council's program to prevent racial clashes, Mr. Alinsky reported, anti-bogotry sermons have been preached from local pulpits and "fair play" discussion groups and "anti-rumor" activities have been initiated among adults and children. He added that if mass rioting should break out, arrangements called for most of the persons in the area to be at home or in churches.

Mr. Alinsky declared that the police had been pledged to militant action against rioters and that citizens' squads had been formed to help the police put down rioting.

The visitor is also executive director of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He said the racial situation in Chicago was so tense that he had come to New York for the commission meeting only after making special arrangements for a hasty return if rioting should break out.

A dozen members of the commission heard reports from Mrs. Gertrude Day of New Haven, Conn., who described the Neighborhood Project in that city; Oliver A. Cowan, Washington police officer, who founded the Junior Police and Citizens Corps of Washington, and Russell Hogreve of the Commission on Community Inter-Relations of the American Jewish Congress, who described efforts to combat juvenile delinquency by turning a boys' street gang into a club.

families attempted to move into the project through the use of a colored man. More than fifty white squatter families left the homes recently after court action was begun against them.

Scattered Reports  
A detail of 200 policemen patrolled the area last Friday and there were scattered reports of a new minor disturbances. A policeman knocked a brick from a woman's hand and several

ing project on the Southwest Side last Thursday night during a series of disturbances that started after the first two of nine eligible

to the Airport Homes public housing project.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

by a colored man.

Miss Elizabeth Wood, executive secretary of the Chicago Housing Authority, said the seven remaining eligible colored families had declined invitations to move into the 100-apartment project.

# Demonstrations Subside in Chicago



# POLICE QUELL MOB IN CHICAGO RIOT

200 Battle Whites Protesting

Moving of Negroes Into

New Housing Project

*New York, N.Y.*

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Dec. 9—One hundred policemen swinging nightsticks, battled an equal number of men and women at the airport homes, a South Side housing project, this afternoon after the crowd hurled rocks at a truck that had moved the furniture of John R. Fort, a Negro war veteran, into one of the project units. *June 12-10-46*

Four men were arrested and taken to Chicago Lawn Police station.

The project, which is under the jurisdiction of the Chicago Housing Authority, was the scene last week of several neighborhood demonstrations against Negro tenants.

The truck attacked today, was driven by Bernard Persily, a member of the United Negro and Allied Veterans and operator of a furniture store. It was leaving the project after unloading the furniture when the shower of stones started. Persily stopped his truck when a rock crashed through the windshield and a following police squad car crashed into the rear of the truck.

Rocks continued to fly from a crowd of men and women gathered across the street. They bombarded both the truck and the squad cars behind and in front of the truck. Police charged into the crowd and the barrage stopped.

Mr. Fort had arrived at the project on the truck, accompanied by Letholian Waddells, another Negro veteran who moved into the project last week. Mr. Waddells helped Mr. Fort unload the furniture, while nearly 100 men and women looked on from the opposite side of the street, kept there by 400 police. There was no violence until the truck started to pull away.

Earlier, a delegation of Negroes headed by Edgar G. Brown had called on Mayor Edward J. Kelly to urge more police protection at the project. They were referred to Police Commissioner Prendergast, who assured them that adequate protection would be furnished.

Another delegation, headed by Herbert March, head of the CIO Packinghouse Workers and including representatives of the CIO Farm Equipment Workers Union and the CIO United Electrical Workers, as well as several Negroes, obtained an interview with the Mayor, who told them that

Negroes would be permitted to remain in the housing project if police had to be stationed there indefinitely to protect them.

"I am not trying to duck anything," the Mayor said. "Things have got to come to a head. This mob can't run the city."



# Irreg Ex-GIs Defeat Political Machine

Sat. 8-17-46

ATHENS, Tenn.—Because he cast his vote for ex-GI candidates here, Thomas Gillespie, 60, Negro farmer and father of seven children, was shot in the back by Windy Wyatt, a machine henchman, as McMinn County ex-GIs last week wrested control from a long-established county political machine.

Promising further assaults on the poll tax, the ex-GIs—running on an independent ticket—resorted to tommy guns, rifles, and shotguns when machine henchmen attempted to thwart a fair count of the ballot by taking a ballot box into the court house for a "private" count under armed guard.

Fighting under the slogan of "Your Vote Will Be Counted As Cast," the ex-GIs and their non-partisan sympathizers waged a six-hour gun battle with the Pat Mansfield machine—which is reportedly connected with the notorious Ed Crump machine.

Prior to the "ballot-stealing" incident which ignited the powder keg, two of the town's 12 ballot boxes had been counted, placing the GI candidates in the lead. Then Sheriff Pat Mansfield ordered the remaining ballot boxes taken to "headquarters."

Mansfield "specially" deputized 75 "outsiders" to take care of the counting under "special" supervision. A crowd immediately surrounded the jail demanding the ballot boxes and the GI prisoners who were taken earlier by machine deputies.

## GI Hostages Threatened

Threatening to kill three GI hostages taken by the machine deputies, Mansfield's henchmen immediately became targets for unidentified marksmen. Deputies returned fire from the doors and windows of the county jail while angry citizens ran home for more ammunition.

GIs and non-partisans laid siege to the Athens "bastille" until after midnight when the citizen fighters used demolition tactics, blowing off the front porch of the jail with three dynamite bombs.

After 3 a.m., the 75 deputies marched out in a full surrender. All of the deputies were released the next morning excepting Windy Wyatt, who was accused of shooting Gillespie, in the back and slugging former GIs at a polling booth. Gillespie was taken to a local hospital.

Knox Henry, a veteran of North African campaign, has been sworn in as sheriff of McMinn County, replacing Mansfield.

Taking a page from the current annals of the "Athens Revolution," former GIs in Danville, Ark., last week toured the city in a cavalcade of cars demanding that "The Voice Of The People Must Be Heard."

Arkansas Follows Suit

Pointing to the success of their buddies in Tennessee, they indicated that they would nominate an independent candidate for sheriff and other offices held by the Yell County Democratic machine. Circulars and signs throughout the city indicated a considerable resentment of the "Yell County Political Organization." Some of the Arkansas circulars called for a meeting in preparation for "cleaning up democracy," and to "overthrow the political machine."

## GI'S TAKE OVER IN TENN. TOWN AFTER BATTLE

Sat. 8-10-46

## Death Of Negro Voter Claimed Cause Of Voting Riot

ATHENS, Tenn.—The election riot which took the life of one Negro voter came to a calm end this week as elected officials of the GI non-partisan government were certified in Athens.

The rioting, which broke out during the election balloting last Thursday, is reported to have started because of the shooting of Tom Gillespie by Windy Wallace, a deputy, shortly after Gillespie voted.

## Slayer Held

This week Wallace was the only one of 25 deputies who had been besieged in the McMinn County jail, who remained there.

The deputies charged with confiscating the ballot boxes for the local party machine, surrendered with upraised arms after they gave out of ammunition.

Both sides exchanged fire for several hours accompanied by several hours of rioting and property damage.

Thirteen automobiles belonging to deputies were seriously damaged by bullet holes, overturning, tire slashing and ripping out of upholstery.

Cars which survived major damage were smashed into junk afterward.

A three-man citizens committee named by veterans took over responsibility for law and order in Athens on Monday.

## Official Returns

George Woods, speaker of the State House of Representatives, and a leader of the overthrown

## Veterans (Tennessee--Athens)

McMinn County machine, returned to the city early in the week to do his duty as secretary of the county election committee.

The veterans committee was named after the disappearance of Paul Mansfield, sheriff of McMinn County and a leader of the gang which had ruled the county for many years. GI members said that they were ready for Mansfield if he made good any of his threats to return to the city and take over his former position.

The pitched battle between ex-servicemen and deputies of the Cantrel machine caused mixed feeling in the nation this week as many leaders saw possibilities of such actions in other parts of the country.

Sat. 8-10-46



**Much Hated and Never Scared**

*The News and Courier, Charleston, S.C.*  
In 1898 the "Phoenix riot", the last race riot in South Carolina, broke out in Greenwood county. The fatalities were few, two or three at most, but there was hard riding after "Radicals" and particular objects of the chase were Tolberts, white Republicans who, before 1865, had owned many negro slaves. *Sum.*

In the village of Ninety-Six, excitement and anger ran high. "Tieless Joe" Tolbert was in imminent peril. Mr. Rodgers, "Red" Rodgers, a Democrat of the Democrats, one of the bravest of the brave whose service for the white people had been done regardless of personal danger, in "Reconstruction" and as a "Red Shirt", did not wish "Joe" Tolbert killed or anyone else killed. He sought out Tolbert and begged to be allowed to drive him in his buggy to his home. (No one would have interfered with anyone in the company of Mr. Rodgers, white man trusted by his people).

Tolbert said "No", that he was breaking no law in walking the streets of Ninety-Six. "Joe" Tolbert, cool and unafraid, declined the protection that the brave and law-abiding gentleman offered him.

The News and Courier has been told that Tolbert was sometimes abused and insulted, that not always did he resent it, but men of Greenwood, themselves of inflexible courage, have told The News and Courier that, whatever might be said of the man, he was never scared. *10-20-46*

The man has died, and The News and Courier, which had no acquaintance with him, is leaving unsaid all that it has heard of him except that better men have borne witness that nobody could scare him.